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Further Reportage on IDB Session

Nicaraguan Economics Minister Remarks on Debt

OW1104090891 Tokyo KYODO in English 0736 GMT 11 Apr 91

[Text] Tokyo, April 11 KYODO—Nicaragua's Minister of Economy and Development Silvio de Franco said Thursday his country is in complete agreement with Japan in its opposition to debt forgiveness.

He told reporters at an informal press conference in Tokyo, "The debt problem is going to be solved with growth, not with forgiveness."

De Franco said, "We are going to recognize all the debts. We don't want any forgiving of this debt. What we would like to do is to have the chance to reschedule the payment of this debt to restructure the way we are going to pay the debt."

Managua is asking the world community to restructure the debt and to give it additional loans, which will be invested in the country to help it restore growth, he said.

De Franco said the capital acquired from growth would then be used to pay back old loans.

"To ask for forgiveness... that's to recognize that we are not a viable country, that's to recognize that you are completely destroyed and you don't have any chances to rebuild your economy," he said.

"Instead, we have this tremendous faith that the Nicaraguan economy is going to be one of the fastest growing economies in the next few years in Latin America," he said.

In his opening address at a three-day meeting of the Inter- American Development Bank (IDB) which ended in Nagoya on Tuesday, Finance Minister Ryutaro Hashimoto expressed Tokyo's opposition to official debt reduction.

Hashimoto told the conference, "It is extremely difficult to expect both official debt reduction and new lending."

"Given that new lending is essential to restore the developing countries to the path of economic growth, it would not contribute to a brighter future for these countries if... concern for large-scale compulsory official debt reduction led to a cut-off of new money to these countries now and in the future," he added.

Hashimoto indicated that official debt reduction could lead to a cutoff of new lending, which could undermine economic growth.

Recently the Paris Club of 17 creditor nations and Japan wrote off 50 percent of Poland's official debt of about 33 billion dollars.

De Franco said the World Bank and the IDB are very committed to helping Managua resolve its debt crisis.

Nicaragua's 360 million dollar debt to the IDB and the World Bank prevents it from receiving fresh loans.

He expressed confidence that Managua's talks with its institutional creditors over its arrears problems will proceed smoothly in Paris this May.

He said the U.S. and international institutional creditors indicated that they were "pleasantly surprised" with the progress made by Managua's economic reforms in private talks they held at the time of the IDB meeting.

De Franco also said the U.S. and institutional creditors indicated their willingness to put together a financial package that would clear Nicaragua's arrears with international financial institutions and then to restart new lending.

He said the other countries of Central America have rescheduled Managua's debt with them totaling about 200 million dollars.

They have given Managua a long grace period and restructured its debt under very soft terms to ensure the stability of the region, he added.

"They said, 'We are poor countries also, but we recognize the problems of your country are tremendous and that the stability of Nicaragua is crucial, is a key factor to the stability of the rest of Central America,' " he said.

De Franco said he had received assurances from Japan that it would provide Managua with financial assistance and technological transfers.

He said Japanese officials had described Nicaragua's economic reforms as "sincere, serious, and courageous" during talks between representatives of the two countries held in Washington a couple of weeks ago.

The economic reforms implemented by the government of Violeta Barrios de Chamorro include the dousing of hyperinflation, the liberalization of the financial sector, deregulation of prices, agrarian reforms, and the introduction of incentives for foreign investment.

Asia-Latin American Ties Established at Session

OW0904122391 Tokyo KYODO in English 0956 GMT 9 Apr 91

[By Ikuji Nakaya]

[Text] Nagoya, April 9 KYODO—The Inter-American Development Bank (IDB)'s 32nd annual meeting, which ended Tuesday after being held in Asia for the first time, has brought Latin America one step closer to Asian nations and territories across the Pacific.

The April 7-9 meeting, attended by representatives from 44 regional and nonregional countries, was also closely observed by delegations from Taiwan and South Korea. China also attended for the first time.

Samuel Shieh, governor of Taiwan's Central Bank of China, asked if the country is seeking IDB membership, said, "definitely yes, but step by step, because we are nonregional. We have to be practical, and also pragmatic."

The question of the size of share Taiwan seeks "is too far" away, Shieh said.

The first step for Taiwan, he said, had been to attend the meeting as an observer, the next being an attempt to develop some kind of working relationship through cofinancing with the IDB. Thirdly, Shieh said, they will "study" Taiwan's involvement in a special fund, if the IDB comes up with one.

He said his country already has "very intensive" bilateral relationships with Latin American countries on economic, agricultural, and technical cooperation, and financial relations.

South Korea, which began its application for acquiring an IDB share in 1987, moved another step closer to its goal at the Nagoya session.

According to Chin Yong-uk, international finance director at South Korea's Finance Ministry, IDB President Enrique Iglesias "principally agreed" to allow South Korea to join the Washington- based regional bank.

Chin said South Korea is seeking a share of less than 0.5 percent.

The IDB allows only 8 percent of the combined capital to be owned by 17 nonregional members, who currently control 7.2 percent, leaving some room left for Seoul to join. Japan, the only IDB member country in Asia, has a share of 1.1 percent in the bank capital.

But financial sources said including a new member means a lesser say for existing members, who would be reluctant to reduce their share.

Chin said there may be a chance for South Korea to join the bank in 1994, when the eighth replenishment of its capital takes place.

Iglesias said Tuesday at a press conference after the meeting's close the IDB is open to new members, but their [as received] will be decided by present shareholders.

People's Bank of China representative Han Mingzhi said the main purpose of China's attendance was to promote trade relations with Latin American countries as China opens its economy. The visit was "fruitful," Han said.

Iglesias said in his closing speech Latin America succeeded in the basic objective of the assembly—to be better known in Asia, a region in a dynamic process of social and economic modernization.

Japan

Kaifu Comments on Gulf Minesweeper Issue

OW1104101291 Tokyo NHK General Television Network in Japanese 0300 GMT 11 Apr 91

[Text] The three divisions, or commissions, of the Liberal Democratic Party [LDP] concerned with national defense held a joint session today. The session confirmed the plan of sending minesweepers of the Self-Defense Forces [SDF] to help clear mines in the Persian Gulf left over from the Gulf war, and also decided that a strong request would be submitted to the government.

The LDP's three divisions, or commissions, concerned with national defense held a joint session today, and discussed the minesweeper dispatch issue, on which leaders of economic circles have continued to express their positive views. At the meeting, Tadashi Kuranari, chairman of the Research Commission on Security, stated as follows:

During the last Gulf war, Japan went so far as to increase taxes to provide a large amount of funds for the multinational forces. However, Japan's efforts failed to receive adequate recognition, and it has become necessary for us to offer our personnel or capability as aid. Various nations have already joined in the operation of clearing mines in the Persian Gulf. Now that the Gulf war cease-fire has gone into effect, the dispatch of SDF minesweepers will not arouse any constitutional issue. Therefore, minesweepers should be dispatched soon.

The participants in the meeting gave their unanimous support for the view expressed by Chairman Kuranari of the Research Commission on Security at the meeting. And it has been decided that they would strongly urge the government to dispatch minesweepers.

Later on, representatives of these three divisions, or commissions, concerned with national defense, including Koji Kakizawa, chairman of the National Defense Division, met with Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu at the prime minister's official residence, and requested that a decision be made on dispatching minesweepers.

In response, Prime Minister Kaifu said that there would be no legal problems in dispatching minesweepers, and then added as follows: I understand the meaning of your request very well. Because various ministries have been instructed to study problems involved in dispatching the minesweepers, I would like to make the decision after reviewing the outcome of their study.

USSR Gorbachev's Upcoming Visit Viewed

Kaifu Promises Sincerity

OW1104063591 Tokyo NHK General Television Network in Japanese 0300 GMT 10 Apr 91

[Text] Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu hosted a traditional cherry blossom viewing party at the Shinjuku Imperial Garden in Tokyo today for personages from all walks of life.

Attending the party were some 8,000 guests including U.S. Ambassador to Japan Armacost, and other foreign envoys, governors of Tokyo, Osaka, Hokkaido and other prefectures, as well as representatives from business circles and the art and cultural world.

Today the sky happened to be overcast with thin clouds, but the cherry blossoms in the imperial garden are in full bloom now.

Prime Minister Kaifu, accompanied by his wife, Sachiyo, enjoyed viewing cherry blossoms while chatting with the invited guests.

[Begin Kaifu recording] President Gorbachev is coming to Japan for the first time. I am planning to attend the summit talks with him with all my sincerity, and talk about Japan's position and wishes to help establish truly cooperative relations between the two countries after resolving the northern territories issue and concluding a peace treaty." [end recording]

So said Prime Minister Kaifu in his address, showing enthusiasm for his talks with President Gorbachev, which are scheduled for next week.

'Likely' To Visit Hiroshima

OW1104042291 Tokyo KYODO in English 0352 GMT 11 Apr 91

[Text] Tokyo, April 11 KYODO—Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev is likely to visit Hiroshima, the first city hit by an atomic bomb,in addition to his planned stop at Nagasaki, the second a-bombed victim, Foreign Ministry officials said Thursday.

The Soviet Government has informed the ministry that Gorbachev wants to add a stop to Hiroshima to the schedule for his April 16-19 visit to Japan.

The ministry has started making adjustments in Gorbachev's hectic itinerary to accomodate his wishes, the officials said.

Gorbachev is likely to drop in on Hiroshima on April 19, the last day visit on his way to Nagasaki, they said.

That day already was packed with events, as Gorbachev was to visit three western cities, Kyoto, Osaka, and Nagasaki, before leaving Japan, government sources said.

Gorbachev is expected to pay his respects at the Russian cemetery in Nagasaki but will not visit sites related to the 1945 U.S. atomic bombing of the city.

After leaving Japan, Gorbachev will visit South Korea's Cheju Island on his way back to Moscow to meet President No Tae-u a Soviet Government spokesman has said.

SDP Changes Position on 4 Soviet-Held Islands

OW1104042191 Tokyo KYODO in English 0343 GMT 11 Apr 91

[Text] Tokyo, April 11 KYODO—The Social Democratic Party (SDP) set a new policy on Thursday calling

for the return of four Soviet-held islands off Hokkaido instead of demanding the return of all the Kuril islands, a senior SDP official said.

The SDP, formerly called the Japan Socialist Party (JSP), adopted the policy in its central executive committee.

The Soviet Union has held the four islands—the Habomais, Shikotan, Etorofu and Kunashiri—since the closing days of World War II. Japan claimed them as its territory in the last century.

Shigeru Ito, chairman of SDP policy board, said the party would agree to a Japan-Soviet peace treaty after the four islands are returned to Japan.

Japan's largest opposition party had argued since 1961 that Moscow must return two of the four islands—Shikotan island and the Habomai islet group—before concluding a peace treaty with Tokyo, and said that the return of the other islands should be negotiated later.

Ito said it is still legitimate for Japan to claim all the Kuril islands but the party made a political decision on the return of the Soviet-held four islands as various opinion polls have shown the Japanese people agree on their return.

Japan and Czarist Russia signed treaties in 1855 and 1875 setting a border which placed all the Kurils under Japanese control and made Sakhalin a Russian territory, ito said.

The SDP will ask Soviet residents of the four islands to participate in joint economic development efforts with the Japanese by declaring the islands a demilitarized zone, Ito said.

Soviet troops should leave the islands, but the party would allow Soviet residents to remain if they wish, he said.

Ito said the party proposes a Japan-Soviet initiative to create peace and prosperity in asia by setting up a regular Asian security cooperation conference.

Ito said Japan should help Moscow overcome its economic plight by strengthening ties between the two countries.

He said Japan must be ready to extend financial, trade, administrative, scientific, and technical assistance to the Soviet Union to promote its economic reform and drive to create a market economy.

Indian Finance Minister Remarks on Aid

OW1104034591 Tokyo KYODO in English 0243 GMT 11 Apr 91

[Text] Tokyo, April 11 KYODO—India's caretaker Finance Minister Yashwant Sinha said Thursday his country is hopeful it will receive desperately needed emergency economic aid from Japan to galvanize its economy, battered by the Persian Gulf crisis.

Noting that Japan has helped countries hit hard by the Gulf turmoil, he said in a press conference in Tokyo, "we feel we are also one of the important Asian countries which have been affected by the development of the Gulf war."

India's request comes as concern is growing that Japan, the world's largest creditor nation, is seeing its external surpluses shrinking.

"We are hopeful that despite the contracting surplus, it is possible for Japan to extend help," said Sinha, who is in Tokyo on an official visit.

With its trade and current-account surplus on the decline, Japan faces difficulty in meeting the ever-growing demand for capital from the war-torn Middle East nations, the emerging economies in Eastern Europe, and debt-ridden Latin America.

Sinha said the Gulf crisis had "a very adverse" impact on the Indian economy by increasing import costs, cutting remittances from Indians working in the Middle East, slowing trade with the region, and damaging tourism, the country's top foreign exchange earner.

"This created immediate further pressure on our balance of payment situation," already in endangered by the dramatic economic growth of the 1980s and the increasing trade and current account gap that followed, he said.

India lost an estimated 3.5-4.0 billion dollars in foreign exchange income because of the Gulf turmoil, 2 billion dollars of which will be financed by the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the Asian Development Bank (ADB).

"The immediate problem is to bridge the gap of the balance of payments," he said.

Sinha was, however, optimistic about the economy. "The problem that India is facing is temporary, short-term, and does not reflect the basic strength of the Indian economy."

He also gave assurances that the resignation of the administration of Chandra Shekar will not affect India's economic and fiscal policy, aimed at reducing the gap between government spending and income and boosting exports to reduce the trade gap.

He dismissed reports that India plans to ask its major creditors, including Japan, to reschedule loans so it can avoid defaulting, something it has never done before.

India still owes payment on part of the more than 700 billion yen in Official Development Assistance (ODA) it has received from Japan.

"We have absolutely no intention of asking for any rescheduling, either of official assistance or commercial borrowings. We are determined to meet our obligations," he said.

Having met officials of the banking and financial sectors on Wednesday, Sinha is scheduled to meet with Finance Minister Ryutaro Hashimoto and Foreign Minister Taro Nakayama before returning to India on Friday.

Okinawa Group Drafts Statements on U.S. Exercises

OW1104011091 Naha NHK Television in Japanese 0300 GMT 10 Apr 91

[Text] The Okinawa Prefectural Assembly Special Committee on U.S. Military Bases met today and drafted two

statements of views—one calling for the suspension of parachute training on Yomitan auxiliary airstrip and the other asking for removal of new bunkers built on Camp Hansen.

The statements are expected to be passed in an extraordinary session of the prefectural assembly this month.

The meeting of the prefectural assembly Special Committee on U.S. Military Bases today reviewed a 7 March incident during parachute training at Yomitan auxiliary airstrip, in which four soldiers landed about 800 meters away from a target point and outside a designated zone, into a civilian farm area. The committee had conducted an on-site inspection earlier in the day.

The statement lodges a strong protest on the landing error incident, declaring: The prefectural assembly has adopted statements of views three times in the past on parachute training, and requested the suspension of parachute training, the prevention of incidents, and the removal of the airstrip itself, but still another incident has happened. This is an act which tramples on the hopes of the prefectural people, and cannot be tolerated.

This draft statement, also calling for immediate suspension of parachute exercises and for the removal of the airstrip, was passed by the committee unanimously.

The committee also took up the matter of U.S. forces building new bunkers on Camp Hansen in Kin-cho for use in live ammunition firing exercises. The committee drew up a statement which demands an immediate halt to the construction of the bunkers and the removal of already built bunkers. The statement points out that they are located close to a civilian area and are causing apprehension among the residents there.

The two draft statements of view are expected to be passed in an extraordinary session of the prefectural assembly opening on 17 April. Members of the Special Committee on Military Bases plan to visit Tokyo and submit the assembly's request to authorities concerned once the statements are adopted by the assembly.

Finance Ministry Reports 1990 Trade Surplus Down

OW1104095391 Tokyo KYODO in English 0725 GMT 11 Apr 91

[Text] Tokyo, April 11 KYODO—As a clear sign of Japan's steadily shrinking trade imbalance, the nation's trade surplus for fiscal 1990 dropped 8.4 percent from a year earlier to 54,583 million dollars, the Finance Ministry reported Thursday.

Imports jumped 13.1 percent from fiscal 1989 to 242,182 million dollars, outpacing exports, which rose 8.4 percent to 296,765 million dollars.

The trade gap with the United States, Japan's largest trading partner, contracted 10.8 percent to 38,113 million dollars.

Meanwhile, booming exports resulted in a steep 24.0 percent jump in the March trade surplus to 8,719 million dollars, the ministry said.

Exports surged 14.1 percent from March 1990 to 29,704 million dollars, while imports grew 10.4 percent to 20,985 million dollars.

Finance Ministry To Urge Reduction in Expenses

OW1104054491 Tokyo KYODO in English 0404 GMT 11 Apr 91

[Text] Tokyo, April 11 KYODO—The Finance Ministry will ask government ministries and agencies to cut down on administrative expenses, after the scheduled enactment Thursday of the 70,347.4 billion yen fiscal 1991 budget, ministry officials said.

Officials said Finance Minister Ryutaro Hashimoto will make the request in a cabinet meeting Friday.

The budget was approved by the House of Representatives last month. Under the Constitution, it will be enacted automatically in 30 days even though the House of Councillors has failed to act on it.

The Diet earlier approved a 5 trillion yen provisional budget for the first 12 days of fiscal 1991, which started April 1.

Officials said the request for saving on administrative expenses is being made unusually early in the fiscal year because the growth in tax revenues is expected to slow down due to the economic deceleration and because the reserve fund in the new budget is tight.

They noted that a decision has already been made to appropriate 200 billion yen from the 350 billion yen reserve fund to cover part of the 9 billion U.S. dollars which the Japanese Government contributed in support of the U.S.-led multinational forces deployed in the Persian Gulf war by issuing deficit-covering national bonds in fiscal 1990.

Osaka Official Named to EBRD Board

OW1104053891 Tokyo KYODO in English 0446 GMT 11 Apr 91

[Text] Tokyo, April 11 KYODO—Tetsuma Fujikawa, chief inspector of the Osaka customs house, has been appointed to the Board of Directors of the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD), the Finance Ministry announced Thursday.

Fujikawa officially will take the post at the end of June, ministry officials said. The bank begins operations later this month.

The EBRD was created by 34 nations, the European Community (EC), and the EC's investment bank to help East European nations build market economies. There will be a general assembly marking its foundation in London on April 15-16.

The ministry chose Fujikawa for the post because he has long experience in working in Europe and is familiar with affairs in the area, the officials said.

The board of directors of EBRD has 23 seats and Japan will hold one of the seats. Fujikawa, 50, will be the first

board member from Japan, although Japanese Ambassador to Britain Shotaro Miyake will temporarily hold the seat on the board when EBRD starts its operations.

Fujikawa, a graduate of Tokyo University, joined the Finance Ministry in 1965. He took his present post in June 1990 after being a manager of general affairs at the ministry's International Finance Bureau.

North Korea

Red Cross Head Sends Telephone Message to South

SK1104055591 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0526 GMT 11 Apr 91

[Text] Pyongyang April 11 (KCNA)—Yi Song-ho, acting chairman of the Central Committee of the Red Cross Society of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, sent a telephone message today to Kim Sang-hyop, president of the South Korean Red Cross.

The message said that two liaison officials will be sent to the conference room of the Neutral Nations Supervisory Commission in Panmunjom at 10:00 April 12 (Friday), 1991, to hand over to the South side the letter proposing a joint celebration of May Day in Pyongyang which is addressed to the acting chairman of the "National Council of Trade Unions" of South Korea and the chairman of the "General Federation of Trade Unions of South Korea" at the request of the chairman of the Central Committee of the General Federation of Trade Unions of Korea.

It notified the South side that if the latter received our side's letter, we will receive its letter addressed to the chairman of the Central Committee of the League of Socialist Working Youth of Korea.

Union Federation Letter Invites South Workers

SK1104112491 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1047 GMT 11 Apr 91

[Text] Pyongyang April 11 (KCNA)—Won Tong-ku, chairman of the Central Committee of the General Federation of Trade Unions of Korea, sent a letter today over radio to the acting chairman of the "National Council of Trade Unions" (Chonnohyop) and the chairman of the "General Federation of Trade Unions" (Nochong) of South Korea, inviting trade union delegates of South Korea to May Day celebrations scheduled in Pyongyang after the South Korean authorities refused the request of Yi Song-ho, acting chairman of the Central Committee of the DPRK Red Cross Society, to convey the letter.

The letter says:

Each time we held colorful May Day celebrations with foreign friends in Pyongyang, we were deeply vexed that we could not sit together with South Korean workers, our brothers and sisters who are within a calling distance.

Expressing deep sympathy with the unhappy lot of the South Korean workers, we courteously invite delegates of "Chonnohyop" and "Nochong" of South Korea to the upcoming grand May Day celebrations in Pyongyang, out of the noble intention to link the cut bonds of fraternity between the northern and southern workers, promote the class solidarity and jointly pave the way for the morrow of a unified country.

I propose to have a contact of delegates of the workers of the North and the South at Panmunjom as soon as possible to discuss the practical matters concerning the Pyongyang trip of the delegates of the South Korean workers.

I hope for a positive reply from your organizations, believing that the emotional moment will surely come when workers of the North and the South will hug each other at the place of the grand May Day celebration in Pyongyang amid the "Song of May Day".

Further Reportage on Visit of South Professor

SK1104105791 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1026 GMT 11 Apr 91

[Text] Pyongyang April 11 (KCNA)—Kim Hui-won, former chairman of the South Korean Kangwon provincial district committe of the "Reunification Democratic Party" and central permanent member of the "Democratic Liberal Party" (DLP) on April 10 met and had an open-hearted exchange of views on the reunification question with Kim Yong-ho, vice-chairman of the Central Committee of the Korean Social Democratic Party.

On the reunification question Kim Hui-won said:

The purpose of my visit to Pyongyang is to find a more planned and organised way of the struggle for withdrawal of the U.S. forces and nuclear weapons from South Korea.

Only when this matter is solved can the proposal for founding a democratic confederal republic of Koryo [DCRK] be carried into practice successfully, I think.

The proposal for founding the DCRK is a realistic and reasonable proposal for reunification which the entire 70 million fellow countrymen sympathise with.

The proposal for reunification by means of confederation put forward by President Kim Il-song has been better supplemented and completed with confederation as the centerpiece, as the nucleus.

I consider that an obstacle to the realisation of this proposal is the presence of the U.S. forces in South Korea.

Only when the U.S. forces are withdrawn from South Korea can our nation achieve the reunification of the country by its own efforts and the proposal for founding the DCRK be carried into effect.

Therefore, I will strive, not in words but through a practical struggle, to make the U.S. forces that have no justification for their presence in South Korea compensate for their use of military bases and get the U.S. forces and nuclear arms withdrawn from there.

He further said:

In the North the leader and the people are admirably united with each other.

That is to say, all the people are guaranteed genuine democracy in the society where there is the people in the heart of the leader and vice versa and the leader and the people form themselves into a harmonious whole.

There are the Workers' Party of Korea, the Korean Social Democratic Party and the Chondoist Chongu Party in the North because it is guided by the outstanding leader.

It is my belief that without an outstanding leader the state is of no use although it may have many parties.

I was deeply moved by the leadership ability of President Kim Il- song.

Justice is sure to win victory.

Kim Hui-won requested the Korean Social Democratic Party to give much help to him in his struggle for the withdrawal of the U.S. forces and nuclear weapons from South Korea in the future.

KCNA Reports U.S., South 'Aerial War Exercises'

SK1104050891 Pyongyang KCNA in English
0433 GMT 11 Apr 91

[Text] Pyongyang April 11 (KCNA)—The U.S. imperialist aggressors on April 9 staged joint air and ground strike exercises against the northern half of Korea in the sky above Mungyong, Oeyondo, Yongdong, Kunwi, Taegu and Yoju as part of the provocative "Team Spirit 91" joint military exercises, according to military sources.

Mobilised in the war exercises were F-16 fighter-bombers from the Pacific bases and fighter-bombers, assault planes and observation planes of the U.S. airforce present in South Korea and the puppet airforce, more than 290 in all.

The provocative war exercises were staged under the command of E-3A AWACS from Kadena Base in Japan.

On the same day the U.S. imperialists brought U-2, RC-12 and RV-1 high-altitude strategic and tactical reconnaissance planes to the sky above the area along the Military Demarcation Line and let them repeatedly fly from the east to the west for an aerial espionage on the depth and frontline areas of our side.

In separate action on the same day, the South Korean authorities frantically staged an attack exercise against the North in Uijongbu area with the mobilisation of huge ground forces, supported by F- 16's, F-5's, F-4's and OA-10's.

The military planes mobilised in the aerial war exercises in the sky above South Korea on April 9 numbered more than 580.

Sihanouk Arrives, Meets Yi Chong-ok, Kim Pok-sin

SK1004050591 Pyongyang KCNA in English
0435 GMT 10 Apr 91

[Text] Pyongyang April 10 (KCNA)—His Royal Highness Samdech Norodom Sihanouk, president of Cambodia, arrived in Pyongyang today for a visit to the Democratic People's Republic of Korea.

Set up at the airport were portraits of President Kim Il-song and His Royal Highness Samdech Norodom Sihanouk.

Slogan boards reading "Warm Welcome to His Royal Highness Samdech Norodom Sihanouk, president of Cambodia!" and "Long live friendship and solidarity between peoples of Korea and Cambodia!" were seen.

A large number of working people in the city warmly welcomed Cambodian guests, waving bunches of flowers.

Vice-President Yi Chong-ok, Vice-Premier Kim Pok-sin and other officials concerned met Samdech Norodom Sihanouk and his entourage.

They were met by Cambodian Ambassador Son Chhum and embassy officials and diplomatic envoys of different countries in Pyongyang.

A welcome function took place at the airport.

The national anthems of Cambodia and the DPRK were played and His Royal Highness Samdech Norodom Sihanouk, in company with Vice- President Yi Chong-ok, reviewed the guards of honour of the three services of the Korean People's Army.

Kim Il-song Meets Tanzanian Cultural Delegation

SK1004110091 Pyongyang KCNA in English
1048 GMT 10 Apr 91

[Text] Pyongyang April 10 (KCNA)—The great leader President Kim Il-song today received the Tanzanian cultural delegation led by Minister of Education and Culture Charles Kabeho which is staying here to participate in the ninth April Spring Friendship Art Festival.

Vice-Premier and Minister of Culture and Art Chang Chol and Vice- Minister of Foreign Affairs Kim Yong-yong were present on the occasion.

The head of the delegation handed to President Kim Il-song a personal letter and a gift of President Ali Hassan Mwinyi.

President Kim Il-song expressed thanks for it and had a cordial and friendly talk with the guests.

He was presented with a gift by them.

Kim Il-song Sends Greetings to Beninese President

SK1004105191 Pyongyang KCNA in English
1036 GMT 10 Apr 91

[Text] Pyongyang April 10 (KCNA)—President Kim Il-song of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea

sent a message of greetings Tuesday to Nicephore Soglo upon his assumption of office as president of the Republic of Benin.

Expressing the belief that the friendly and cooperative relations between the two countries would grow stronger and develop, he wished the Benin president a great success in his work for the prosperity of the country.

Leading Officials Meet Koreans From Japan

SK1004045191 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0425 GMT 10 Apr 91

[Text] Pyongyang April 10 (KCNA)—A congratulatory group of Koreans in Japan led by Han Tok-su, chairman of the central standing committee of the General Association of Korean Residents in Japan (Chongnyon), arrived here Tuesday by air to participate in the celebrations of the April 15 holiday.

It was met at the airport by Pak Song-chol, Yun Ki-pok, Chang Chol, chairman of the Central Committee of the Korean Social Democratic Party Yi Kye-paek and officials concerned.

Heads of Chongnyon delegations on a visit to the socialist homeland were also present at the airport.

Chong Chun-ki Heads Delegation to Japan Meets Takako Doi

SK1004044891 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0429 GMT 10 Apr 91

[Text] Tokyo April 9 (KCNA)—Takako Doi, chairwoman of the Central Executive Committee [CEC] of the Japan Social-Democratic Party [JSDP], met a delegation of the Korean Society for Cultural Relations with Foreign Countries in the central headquarters of the party Tuesday.

Present there were members of the delegation headed by its Chairman Chong Chun-ki.

Wataru Kubo, vice-chairman of the C.E.C., the JSDP and member of the House of Councillors, was on hand.

Chairwoman Takako Doi expressed her will to strive for the materialisation of the three-party joint declaration.

The conversation proceeded in a friendly atmosphere.

Meets Makoto Tanabe

SK1104112291 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1023 GMT 11 Apr 91

[Text] Tokyo April 10 (KNS-KCNA)—Makoto Tanabe, vice- chairman of the Central Executive Committee of the Japan Social- Democratic Party and member of the House of Representatives, asked Chong Chun-ki, chairman of the Korean Society for Cultural Relations with Foreign Countries who is leading a delegation of the society, to inform President Kim Il-song and His Excellency Kim Chong-il that the Japan Social-Democratic Party will in the future, too, continue to strive for the normalisation of diplomatic relations between Japan and the DPRK.

Makoto Tanabe said when he met with Chong Chun-ki on April 10 that the joint declaration of the three parties was a declaration of historical significance.

Demand for the normalisation of Japan-DPRK relations is daily growing in Japan, he said, and continued: This is the manifestation of the Japanese people's will.

The Japan Social-Democratic Party will consistently urge the government to make efforts for the progress of the talks between the two governments of Japan and the DPRK for the normalisation of diplomatic relations.

Japanese Joint Venture Factories Open

SK0904153091 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1459 GMT 9 Apr 91

[Text] Pyongyang April 9 (KCNA)—Several joint-venture factories went into operation in Korea.

The Hamhung Chemical Joint Plant under the international chemical joint-venture company is run jointly by Korea Yongaksan General Trading Corp. and Kokusai Trading Co., Ltd. of the General Association of Korean Residents in Japan (Chongnyon).

The plant with a plottage of more than 100,000 square metres is a modernly-equipped rare metal producer.

The commissioning of the plant will help further supplement the nation's industrial departmental structures and register greater successes in various branches of the national economy including electronics and automation industries.

The Taesong June 4 joint-venture factory is run by the Taesong Joint-Venture Ironware Processing Trading Co. of Korea and the Daiken Trading Co., Ltd. of Japan.

A modern daily necessities producer, it will contribute to making the people's life more cultured and easing the burden of household chores of women.

Commissioning ceremonies of the factories took place Monday.

Mongolian Envoy, Official Sign Trade Agreement

OW0904061891 Ulaanbaatar International Service in English 0910 GMT 3 Apr 91

[Text] An agreement on Trade and Payments for 1991 between the Mongolian and North Korean Governments has been signed in Pyongyang. It was concluded by Mongolian Ambassador to North Korea Mr. Bandra and Deputy Foreign Minister of North Korea Mr. Pang Tae-yul. According to the agreement, trade transactions between the two countries will be carried out in hard currency keeping to world exchange rate.

KCNA Review of 11 Apr Pyongyang Press

SK1104104591 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1007 GMT 11 Apr 91

[Press review]

[Text] Pyongyang April 11 (KCNA)—Dailies here today carry a photo-accompanied report that the great leader President Kim Il-song received the Tanzanian cultural delegation on a visit to Korea to participate in the 9th April Spring Friendship Art Festival.

Printed in the press is a message of greetings sent by President Kim Il-song of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea to Nicephore Soglo upon his assumption of office as president of the Republic of Benin.

Dailies give an account of seminars on immortal classical works of President Kim Il-song which were held in different countries.

Conveyed in NODONG SINMUN are words of South Korean people who are longing for the bosom of President Kim Il-song.

Dailies inform the readers that a Bangladesh national seminar on self-reliance and building of a new society was held on the occasion of the birthday of President Kim Il-song. The report delivered there is also carried in the press. Dailies deal with the opening of a festival function held in Benin and a DPRK book, photo and handicraft exhibition held in France.

Dailies report the opening of an art show celebrating April 15 in Pyongyang.

Comrade Kim Chong-il received a gift from president of the United Republic of Tanzania Ali Hassan Mwinyi, report papers.

A MINJU CHOSON article tells that the dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il initiated the construction of the Tower of the Chuche Idea and the Arch of Triumph and wisely led it.

NODONG SINMUN devotes nearly one whole page to an article headlined "It Is Our Party's Great Pride To Have Brought Up Revolutionary People Faithful to the Cause of Socialism".

MINJU CHOSON editorially calls for a powerful movement for the title of model forest county.

Econews of the press includes reports that the first-stage tramway project is being powerfully accelerated in the final stage in Pyongyang and innovations have been effected in railway transport.

Dailies give photo-illustrated reports about the 9th April Spring Friendship Art Festival which is open.

The press informs the readers of the arrival of Samdech Norodom Sihanouk, president of Kampuchea, in Pyongyang for a visit to our country.

Kim Yong-ho, vice-chairman of the C.C. [Central Committee], the Korean Social Democratic Party, met Kim Hui-won, former chairman of the South Korean Kwangwon Provincial Distric Committee of the "Reunification Democratic Party" and central permanent member of the "Democratic Liberal Party" (DLP), and exchanged views on the matter of nationl reunification, according to the press.

The Committee for the Peaceful Reunification of the Fatherland had an interview with home and foreign reporters in Pyongyang in connection with the North side's stand toward the inter-Korean dialogue, says the press.

It is reported in the press that starting ceremony for the "International Solidarity March for Supporting Korea's Reunification" was held in Rwanda.

Remaining in the limelight of the press is news that the U.S. imperialists and the South Korean authorities continue to stage military exercises for northward invasion and the "Team Spirit" joint military exercises were under fire at home and abroad.

Given in the press are reports that students of ten universities in Seoul renewed their determination to defend the "National Council of Student Representatives" (Chondaehyop) and smash the suppression of the student movement. Chondaehyop made public this year's action program. Seoul students attacked a police box and the new democratic union was founded in South Korea.

Spotlighted in NODONG SINMUN is news that Comrade Fidel Castro declared that Cuba would never go back to capitalism, property of Yankees and a colony, speeking at a national function held to mark the 29th founding anniversary of the Union of Young Communists of Cuba and the 30th founding anniversary of the children's corps organization named after "Jose Marti".

Foreign news columns of the press include reports that the fourth session of the seventh Chinese National People's Congress was closed, the Vietnamese paper NHAN DAN, stressed the Communist Party of Vietnam would hold fast to the idea chosen by it, and disputes between nations over the situation of southern Osetia are coiling up in the Soviet Union.

Kim Chong-il Works To Increase Electricity

SK1104075191 Pyongyang Domestic Service in Korean 0600 GMT 5 Apr 91

[Unattributed talk: "On the Path of Unending Development of the Electric Industry"]

[Text] Our electric industry has advanced along a path of endless development under the wise guidance of the great leader and the party.

The electric industry has tirelessly traversed along a path of development and solidification under the guidance of the dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il, who has been brilliantly realizing the great leader's idea about the electric industrial construction.

The great leader Comrade Kim Il-song has taught: Electricity is the energy of the national economy. Without it, nothing can be done.

In order to develop the socialist economy, it is imperative to put the electric industry ahead of other sectors. With this in mind, the dear comrade leader, honoring the great leader's lofty will to endlessly develop the nation's electric industry, has energetically guided the struggle to increase the generation of electric power. While seeing to it that the existing power generation capacity is put to effective use, the dear comrade leader has sagaciously led the struggle to build anew a large number of power stations.

We can see a good expression of this in the fact that the dear comrade leader energetically led the struggle to increase the capacity to generate power in 1988. In his New Year's address in 1988, the great leader made clear the target in building anew power generation capacity that year. The dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il brought forward a series of bold and daring operations to implement the great leader's militant tasks and energetically guided this project.

Through the party Central Committee's letters and slogans released on the occasion of the 40th anniversary of the founding of the Republic, the dear comrade leader stirred up not only the party members and working people in the electric industrial sector, but also the entire nation in a struggle to increase anew the power generation capacity. Taking positive measures in rapid succession, he encouraged construction workers engaged in building power stations. That year our people were able to offer the great leader great joy and satisfaction by fulfilling the goals of increasing the power generation capacity.

Whenever the great leader made pronouncements on the need to increase the generation of electric power, the dear comrade leader took the lead in implementing the tasks and vigorously led the struggle to increase the generation of electric power. In March 1975, he initiated a series of struggles to increase electric power generation, including the dispatching of the supervisory workteams of the three revolutions to power stations to wage a struggle to increase the generation of electric power, and then guiding the struggle himself. In particular, a struggle for increasing electric power generation waged in 1976, which lasted for 11 months to 1977, makes us feel in our hearts the great devotion and effort the dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il imparted to satisfactorily resolve the problem of electricity as desired by the great leader.

The Pukchang thermal power complex, to which the dear comrade leader paid a great deal of attention during the struggle to increase electric power generation, was a large-scale electric power generation base for which the great leader not only chose the site, but also supervised the whole course of building it. During that period, the great leader was totally devoted to the construction of Pukchang thermal power complex out of a desire to make the complex prove its worth.

Nevertheless, things in fact did not go as well as the great leader expected. The problem of supplying cooling water was a case in point.

Early on the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song proposed the task of building Taedonggang power station in order to solve the problem of supplying cooling water and saw to it that a large quantity of water was dammed. However, with no satisfactory progress in the work of laying the pipe for supplying water, conditions for power generation were bad. Realizing this, the dear comrade leader saw to it that the construction force concentrated on laying the pipes to supply cooling water to Pukchang thermal power complex and then sent able and skilled functionaries to the sites so that they could vigorously push ahead with the manufacture of the water pipes before anything else.

In the meantime, he took positive measures to make all sectors of the national economy produce and supply equipment and materials to be used in the pipe-laying ahead of everything else and solved all the problems arising while being informed of progress in the construction. In addition, he saw to it that the pipe-laying, a vast construction project, was completed within a period of two months, more or less. In this way, in Pukchang thermal power complex alone there were a large number of reserves that enabled the complex to increase electric power and these delighted and satisfied the great leader.

With his sagacious leadership, as depicted, the dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il saw to it that Chongchongang and the 16 June thermal power stations waged a vigorous struggle to increase power generation capacity and bring power generation to a normal level. As a result, a miracle in creating power generation capacity, which would have taken years to complete, was accomplished within 12 months. At the same time, the power output increased by 150 percent as compared to the same period previously, thereby satisfactorily meeting the demand for the electric power in the national economy.

The dear comrade leader also sagaciously led the struggle to provide the energy needed in the struggle to make the electric industry chuche-oriented, modern, and science-oriented and to carry out the 10 long-term goals of socialist economic construction during the Second Seven-Year Plan period.

With his energetic guidance, he saw to it that the struggle to create anew a vast power generation capacity during the eighties came to a victorious conclusion. In addition, he paid profound attention to the problem of supplying and saving electric power, provided careful guidance, addressed all the problems arising in elevating the making of the electric industry chuche-oriented, modernized, and science-oriented to a high level, and then took all necessary measures.

Thanks to such sagacious leadership by the dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il who, with boundless loyalty to

the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song, is brilliantly realizing the leader's [suryong] plan for socialist economic construction, our electric industry is developing without pause while providing powerful vitality to the national economy which is advancing at a high rate of speed.

DPRK: Honor Prizes Awarded to Industrial Units

SK1004053891 Pyongyang Domestic Service in Korean 1200 GMT 9 Apr 91

[Decree issued by the DPRK Central People's Committee (CPC) on 4 April in Pyongyang]

[Text] The DPRK Central People's Committee awards the Honor Prize of No. 26 Model Machine Unit to the following units which have taken good care of machine facilities and have regularized and standardized enterprise management by vigorously conducting the campaign to create a model machine unit of loyalty to follow and learn the No. 26 Machine Unit under the party's leadership, thus overfulfilling the assigned tasks of the national economy.

These are the Sinpukchong Railroad Machine Plant under the Ministry of Railways and the Oil Plant of Pyongsong city in South Pyongan Province.

[Signed] DPRK President Kim Il-song, Pyongyang

[Dated] 4 April 1991

KCNA Describes Environmental Protection Measures

SK1004153091 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1457 GMT 10 Apr 91

[Text] Pyongyang April 10 (KCNA)—Deep attention is paid to environmental protection in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea.

The environmental protection law of the DPRK was adopted at the fifth session of the Seventh Supreme People's Assembly in April 1986.

Over the past five years measures have been taken to put out of existence or move outside cities the factories and enterprises which were liable to pollute air and water and the modernization of the environmental protection facilities has been promoted and an energetic work undertaken to conserve nature better.

In the nature and plant reserves and animal, bird and aquatic resources sancturies including the Mt. Paektu Special Nature Reserve, the changes of natural conditions have been systematically surveyed and recorded and many protective measures have been taken to propagate vegetation including medicinal herbs and useful animals such as deer, Korean water-deer, pheasant and white-bellied black woodpecker and fishes.

In the past five years trees useful for environmental protection and of economic value have been planted to create about one million hectares of forests.

The Taedong, Chongchon, Amnok and other river and streams have been adjusted and the construction of river banks and anti-tidal dikes continues.

In the same period 12,000 units of environmental protection facilities have been further modernized across the country.

The Pyongchon Sewage Purification Centre with a daily disposal capacity of 300,000 cubic metres was built in Pyongyang and many purification centers and settling basins built in major industrial districts.

In Pyongyang and major cities and industrial districts tens of new observation stations hav been built to analyze the environmental conditions and take measure in time.

South Korea

Further Reportage on Upcoming Gorbachev Visit

Talks Called 'Major Turning Point'

SK1104014791 Seoul THE KOREA TIMES in English 11 Apr 91 p 1

[Text] President No Tae-u and Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev are expected to discuss concrete plans to realize the South-North Korean summit meeting at an early date in their April 19 talks on Cheju-do, a high-ranking official said yesterday.

The official said, on condition of anonymity, that the Cheju-do summit would become a major turning point to help improve inter-Korean relations.

He also said that the Seoul government would ask the Soviet Union to play a more positive role in materializing the South-North summit, which was proposed by the South, during the Cheju-do summit talks.

Another major agenda item will be Seoul's bid for seeking United Nations membership.

The government will strongly request the Moscow government to state clearly its support of Seoul's policy to unilaterally enter the world body unless Pyongyang accepts the offer for simultaneous entry, the official said.

Meanwhile, an advance Soviet team will arrive in Seoul around this weekend to prepare for the suddenly-arranged No-Gorbachev meeting.

Government officials will discuss with the Soviets an itinerary, agenda items, protocol and security matters.

Even if Gorbachev's visit takes the form of an "official working visit," the government is seeking to adopt a joint statement about the result of the Cheju-do meeting, government sources said.

According to them, the government chose Cheju Shilla Hotel in Sogwipo City on the island as the site for the No-Gorbachev talks.

A Chongwadae official said, "As far as I know, the government has notified the Soviet side through its Seoul Embassy the choice of the hotel as the meeting place."

Soviet Envoy on Visit, UN

SK1104084691 Seoul YONHAP in English 0806 GMT 11 Apr 91

[Text] Seoul, April 11 (YONHAP)—The Soviet Union supports the universality of United Nations membership but hopes South Korea will enter the world body together with North Korea, not alone, Soviet Ambassador to Korea Oleg Sokolov said Thursday.

"We adhere 100 percent to the very principle of universality of the United Nations," Sokolov told YONHAP NEWS AGENCY.

He said that while Moscow believed any country that kept the U.N. Charter should be admitted to the body, it still hoped South and North Korea would find a joint solution to this issue.

"It will be in everybody's interests that both sides, and I repeat, both sides, strive and not discontinue their efforts to find what are some kind of joint, common solution, so that they would both be admitted to the United Nations. If that solution is found, and we are very hopeful they can still be met, then the Soviet Union will support any solution the two Koreas will find," the first Soviet ambassador to Seoul said.

Asked to comment on South Korea's intention to apply for U.N. membership this summer, the career diplomat said it was "one possibility" and "there will still be time in efforts for joint solution."

He said his government had been telling North Korea that "we will welcome simultaneous entry of both Koreas to the U.N."

Ambassador Hyon Hong-chu, chief of the South Korean observer mission to the United Nations, recently said Seoul would file an application before the General Assembly in September.

Touching on the issue of nuclear arms on the Korean Peninsula, Sokolov said his country made "no exception for anyone" when it came to adherence to the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty [NPT] and the International Atomic Energy Agency's [IAEA's] Safeguards Agreement.

North Korea joined the NPT on 1985 but has not yet signed the IAEA agreement, under which it must open its nuclear facilities to international inspection.

Affirming his government's position that it would not initiate the use of nuclear arms under any circumstances, the ambassador said a similar promise on the part of the United States could help ease tension on the Korean peninsula and improve the security situation.

Told U.S. Ambassador Donald Gregg did not want denuclearization of the peninsula, he said, "Why not?"

Gregg said Tuesday that it would be difficult to realize denuclearization because Korea is within range of Soviet and Chinese nuclear arms.

Describing Gorbachev's planned visit to Cheju, the southernmost island of South Korea, and the third summit talks with Korean President No Tae-u as "vivid testimony to the very dynamic development" of Seoul-Moscow relations, Sokolov said the summit would offer "a good cause for enhancing peace, stability and cooperation" on the Korean peninsula and around it.

Asked if a new proposal regarding Asia and the Pacific would be made by Gorbachev during his visit to Japan, April 16-19, and South Korea, the ambassador said, "let's see what comes out."

Sokolov said South Korea and the Soviet Union had excellent economic cooperation and that Korea should not think of its loans to Moscow as "aid" but as mutually beneficial.

He admitted the Soviet Union was experiencing "many problems, many drawbacks and many complications on the way" to "a complete new system of economic management," but said "the course stays and we will be getting there."

The South Korean Government promised 3 billion U.S. dollars in support for perestroyka shortly after the two countries entered into full ties on Sept. 30 last year.

The ambassador said Korea had a "very promising" opportunity to take part in the development of the Soviet Far East, for instance, building a communications network linking Leningrad, Moscow and Khabarovsk.

Sokolov started his ambassadorial duties here on Dec. 11 last year, a few days before the second No-Gorbachev summit in Moscow. The first summit was in San Francisco on June 4 and led to the signing of diplomatic relations within four months.

Soviet Envoy: 'Very Important' Visit

SK1104055291 Seoul KBS-1 Television Network in Korean 1200 GMT 10 Apr 91

[Interview with Soviet Ambassador Oleg Mikhaylovich Sokolov by reporter Kim Hong on 10 April in Seoul—recorded; in English]

[Text] [Sokolov] I think that the visit is very important. As you know, this is the third time that the two leaders are going to meet within the last 10 months. This shows the kind of respect that we have for the ROK and the Korean people on the one hand and our interest as well in developing the already dynamic relationship between the USSR and the ROK. So I certainly feel that this visit is going to be very significant and that it will give another boost to our overall relationship, be it in the bilateral sphere, in the regional sphere, or even globally.

[Kim] What do you think will be the main subject of the summit meeting on Cheju Island?

[Sokolov] All the principle issues of peace and security in the region both on the Korean Peninsula and around the global changes that are occurring in the world, and our bilateral cooperation in various fields, including our

economic cooperation, will be on the agenda and will be discussed. [sentence as heard]

My feeling is that this meeting will be another major impetus to the future development of the entire range of our bilateral relationship with the ROK.

Gorbachev 'To Clarify' Position

SK1104033091 Seoul THE KOREA HERALD in English 11 Apr 91 p 1

[Text] The Soviet Union has informed South Korea that it would support Seoul's bid for U.N. membership, a ranking government official said yesterday.

Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev is expected to clarify the Soviet position during his talks with President No Tae-u on Cheju Island April 19, he added.

"Moscow recently conveyed, through diplomatic channels to Seoul, its position that it would respect the principle of universality of U.N. membership," the official said on condition of anonymity.

The Soviet Union made it clear that it regards as unrealistic North Korea's call for the two Koreas to share a single seat at the United Nations, he said.

"Moscow officials seem to share the view that there is no reason for South Korea to remain outside the United Nations," he said.

He said he believes that the Soviet Union will not veto Seoul's application for U.N. membership.

The Soviet Union is one of the five permanent members of the U.N. Security Council, each of which has the right to veto a country's application for a U.N. seat.

The government Monday announced that it would seek U.N. membership this fall. Seoul has long maintained the position that it would unilaterally move to join the world organization, unless the North accepts its proposal for the two Koreas entering it together.

Soviet Deputy Foreign Minister Igor Rogachev, during his visit to Seoul last week, called on Seoul to have full consultations with Pyongyang regarding the U.N. membership question.

On Rogachev's remarks, the official said, "I think that he made the remarks out of concern about Pyongyang's resistance. But I believe that the Soviet Union will no longer take a reserved attitude over the question."

North Korea is a long-standing ally of the Soviet Union. It has long argued that simultaneous entry of South and North Korea into the United Nations would perpetuate the territorial division.

The government will step up efforts to persuade China to accept Seoul's position of seeking full U.N. membership.

China has so far indicated that it might take side with North Korea in regard to the U.N. membership question.

During the Cheju summit, No is also likely to call on Gorbachev to step up efforts to have North Korea join international nuclear safety accords, the official said.

He also said the question of arranging an inter-Korean summit may be taken up during the No-Gorbachev talks.

The Soviet Union is still said to exercise some influence over North Korea.

In the meantime, Chongwadae sources said a Soviet advance team will arrive in Seoul Friday or Saturday for negotiations on the agenda and the itinerary of the Cheju summit.

They also said the government is pushing a plan to issue a joint statement after the No-Gorbachev talks.

Late Arrival May Shorten Visit

SK1104062291 Seoul YONHAP in English 0525 GMT 11 Apr 91

[Text] Seoul, April 11 (YONHAP)—Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev is likely to spend much of his flying visit to South Korea next week eating dinner, sources at the presidential office say.

Gorbachev is expected to arrive on Cheju Island for his summit with President No Tae-u at around 6 p.m. April 19. He flies in after touring the Japanese city of Nagasaki in the afternoon on his way home from a visit to Japan April 16-18.

"A detailed itinerary of the Cheju talks has yet to be fixed between the two governments. But as the Soviets want to go ahead with the Nagasaki visit, President Gorbachev will be arriving on Cheju later than we first thought," one of the sources said.

He said the late arrival might shorten Gorbachev's stay on Cheju from an already brief four hours at most.

Korean officials have been scouring hotels in the Joongmun tourist complex in Sogwipo, a city on the southern tip of Cheju Island, in search of a venue for the summit. The venue is likely to be in Cheju City, the island province's capital where Gorbachev's jet will land, to save time.

Gorbachev is the first Soviet head of state ever to visit South Korea.

Foreign Minister Comments on Visit

SK1104025791 Seoul KBS-1 Television Network in Korean 1200 GMT 10 Apr 91

[Interview with Foreign Minister Yi Sang-ok by KBS anchorman Pak Song-pom—live]

[Text] [Pak Song-pom] Foreign Minister Yi Sang-ok, who has had a very busy schedule today with the closing of the conference of the UN Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific, has made himself available for this KBS news program this evening. We will ask him about Gorbachev's visit to the ROK.

How are you, sir, Foreign Minister Yi Sang-ok? We have the impression that Gorbachev's visit to our country on

19 April is a surprise as far as its timing. Please tell us the process and background involved in this decision.

[Yi Sang-ok] The visit itself is not a surprise. President Gorbachev's visit to the ROK has been a continuous subject of discussion between the two countries, as a result of which we received the decision from the Soviet side yesterday morning. We then accepted the Soviet proposal to hold the summit talks on Cheju Island, announcing it rather hurriedly last night.

[Pak] Gorbachev's visit to our country comes at a time when the world order is reshaping in the wake of the Gulf war and when the four major powers surrounding the Korean Peninsula are making brisk contacts. Some, therefore, observe that during the summit the leaders of the two countries may exchange views on the situation surrounding the region.

[Yi] As you said, we expect that the two leaders will hold an in-depth discussion on the changing international situation in the wake of the Gulf war and will extensively discuss specific plans to alleviate tension and secure peace on the Korean Peninsula and in Northeast Asia.

[Pak] What effect do you think Gorbachev's visit to the ROK will have on alleviating tension and securing peace on the Korean Peninsula?

[Yi] We hope North Korea will take President Gorbachev's visit to the ROK not as a shock but as a process of natural exchange and contact now that the two countries have normalized their relations. As we made it clear upon the establishment of diplomatic relations between the ROK and the Soviet Union, we have no intention of isolating North Korea. Rather, we hope that the normalization of diplomatic relations between the ROK and the Soviet Union and the improvement of relations between the ROK and the Soviet Union will induce North Korea to join the international trend of openness and reconciliation and participate in and contribute to the alleviation of tensions and securing of peace on the Korean Peninsula.

[Pak] Is there any special significance to the venue of the ROK-USSR summit talks in Cheju Island?

[Yi] President Gorbachev is coming to the ROK en route home after his visit to Japan. He, therefore, does not have much time to spend in our country. Recent summit talks often have been held in quiet places, like a resort area, rather than the capital so that the leaders of the countries could hold in-depth conversation in a cozy atmosphere. We can say that the venue of the Cheju Island summit ought to be viewed in that perspective.

Plans To Boost Cooperation

SK1104085691 Seoul YONHAP in English 0759 GMT 11 Apr 91

[Text] Seoul, April 11 (OANA-YONHAP)—The South Korean Government is making plans to meet the need for greater economic cooperation with the Soviet Union following Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev's stopover April 19.

"Gorbachev's visit will strengthen the basis for mutual economic cooperation and the cooperative mood will mount high in the so-far sluggish fields of fishing, science and technology," Kim In-ho, assistant economic planning minister for international policy coordination, said Thursday.

"An agreement was made in principle about mutual economic cooperation in January, when a Soviet delegation led by Deputy Prime Minister Yuriy Maslyukov visited Seoul."

Seoul will have working-level talks with Moscow in May or June to hold the first session of the Joint Committee on Economic and Scientific-Technical Cooperation in the first half of 1992, he said.

The committee, to be headed by vice premiers, is also a product of the January visit and was envisioned as a forum to discuss and coordinate matters unsuited for sectoral negotiations.

Seoul is to provide Moscow with consumer goods worth 800 million dollars within this year as part of the 3-billion-dollar loan Korea has pledged to offer over the coming three years.

In a follow-up measure to the shipment, talks on the amount and export windows for 34 items already agreed will be finished by May.

Korea plans to resume the Korea-Soviet fisheries talks next month to solve a problem with the pollack quota by responding to Soviet demands for joint investment in repair facilities for ships and seafood processing plants. Pollack fishing in the north Pacific was suspended under new U.S. fishing regulations.

The plants may be put on the financial support list of Soviet- bound deferred-payment exports.

The government will try to get information on Soviet basic scientific knowledge and technology so it can commercialize them and will invite Soviet scientists to Korean universities or research institutes.

The opening of a direct sea route between Vostochniy and Pusan, stalled due to disagreements on beyond-point routes to third countries, will be also promoted for early solution.

In addition, participation in construction of an undersea optical fiber cable between Korea and Nakhodka as part of the Trans-Siberian line will be considered, as far as it complies with regulations adopted by Cocom (the Coordinating Committee for Multilateral Export Controls).

Opposition: Government 'Subservient'

SK1104052891 Seoul THE KOREA HERALD in English 11 Apr 91 p 2

[Text] Commenting on the South Korean-Soviet summit talks on Cheju April 19, opposition parties yesterday charged the government with showing a "subservient" attitude toward the Soviet Union.

"It is a national disgrace that President Gorbachev will visit Cheju Island for only three hours of talks, considering that we have pledged to extend $3 billion in economic aid to the Soviet Union," said Pak Sang-chon, spokesman of the largest opposition New Democratic Union (NDU).

Pak demanded that the government reschedule the talks and that the foreign minister assume responsibility.

Pak argued that the government is trying to exploit the summit as an occasion to polish No's image damaged by the recent Suso bribery scandal.

"We can't help but regard the meeting as part of the government's strategy to gain the upper hand in the second round of local council elections in June," he contended.

The splinter Democratic Party (DP) contended that the summit meeting was arranged without using the normal dipolomatic process.

Party spokesman Chang Sok-hwa said the nation's prestige was damaged seriously as the talks will last only about three to four hours on a remote island and it was arranged without working-level consultations. The summit was agreed upon without fixing the agenda, he argued.

He said his party anticipates no positive results from the meeting as it was hastily arranged.

The DP spokesman urged President No to meet with President Gorbachev to promote national interests, departing from the previous "begging and demonstrating diplomacy," by discussing bilateral issues such Seoul's economic aid to Moscow and Korea's application for U.N. membership.

Chang, nonetheless, expressed hope that the talks would result in easing tension in Northeast Asia and normalization of inter-Korea relations.

Ministry Considers USSR Joint Nuclear Project

SK1104005791 Seoul THE KOREA TIMES in English 11 Apr 91 p 3

[Text] The Science-Technology Ministry is considering including the issue of the joint development of small-size nuclear reactors in the agenda of the Korean-Soviet science ministers meeting slated for May in Moscow.

According to sources at the ministry yesterday, Soviet officials want to accelerate technological cooperation in the field of nuclear energy and the reactor project would be a good means of spurring this effort.

The Soviet Union is seeking to upgrade and sophisticate the small-size reactors they now use in nuclear-powered submarines for commercial use and wants Korea to subsidize the project partly, the sources said.

Foreign Minister Discusses Seoul Declaration

SK1004074591 Seoul YONHAP in English 0705 GMT 10 Apr 91

[Text] Seoul, April 10 (OANA-YONHAP)—ESCAP's [Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific] Seoul declaration on regional cooperation and Seoul plan of action for promoting industrial restructuring will help Asian-Pacific development and economic progress, South Korean Foreign Minister Yi Sang-ok said Wednesday.

"The Seoul declaration gives very clear standing to the developmental value of regional cooperation, specifically describing it as of paramount importance," Yi, session chairman for the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific meeting here, told delegates at the closing ceremony.

"It reaffirms ESCAP's important role in strengthening cooperation, and urges the members and associate members to join in cooperative efforts to better meet the increasingly development challenges looming ahead of us," Yi said.

"(The Seoul plan of action) provides a useful blueprint for industrial advancement and greater competitiveness in manufacturing through structural changes facilitated mainly by increasing regional cooperations.

"I also wish to urge all concerned, however, to make conscious efforts to translate these encouraging cooperative sentiments into substantive actions.

"Growing uncertainties in the international economic environment over the past years reinforced the need for collective and complementary responses among member countries in order to safeguard and enhance the industrial dynamism already generated in this region."

Recognizing cooperative action under the Seoul plan was "assuming added importance," he said. "Otherwise, there can be little hope of staying abreast of rapid changes in the world economy or of competing effectively in ever-shifting yet ever more efficient world markets.

"On behalf of my government, I wish to assure you all that the Republic of Korea will be ready to assist actively in implementing the Seoul plan of action."

Korea hoped donor governments and other agencies like the U.N. industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) and U.N. Development Programme (UNDP) would bolster these efforts, he said.

The Asia-Pacific region was a "growth center and major trading partner in the world economy" and there were two important developments in the area, he said.

"A sustained upsurge of economic dynamism in the region, or certainly in a goodly number of East and Southeast Asian nations, and secondly the development of a substantial degree of economic interdependence among Asian-Pacific countries," Yi said.

"ESCAP is in the process of assuming an appropriate and useful role in the region's changed and more complex situation by undergoing a second significant evolutionary reorientations of its operational activities.

"As I see it, ESCAP is now experiencing another important transition by gradually giving more focused attention to strengthening regional cooperation. Along with the timely shift to a thematic approach, the increased emphasis on cooperation is the main thrust of the resolution on restructuring the intergovernmental structure subsidiary to the commission."

Korea was committed to implementation of the Seoul plan of action and "could help promote such harmonious interactions by playing the role of a bridge between the advanced and developing countries," Yi said.

SRV Soldiers Force Captain To Sign Document

SK1104075391 Seoul YONHAP in English 0734 GMT 11 Apr 91

[Text] Pusan, South Korea, April 11 (YONHAP)—The captain of a South Korean fishing boat abducted recently to Vietnam by a group of armed pirates from the Straits of Malacca was forced to sign a document which was believed to be including a confession that their boat had strayed into Vietnamese territorial waters, officials of Samyong Fishing Co. here said Thursday.

Samyong received a message Saturday from So An-song, captain of the 312-ton "Sun 702," saying that he and other crew members were turned over to local Vietnamese soldiers. So said he was forced to sign a document at gunpoint but did not know what it said because it was written in Vietnamese, according to the company officials.

So believed it was a confession, company officials said.

Four armed pirates abducted the fishermen March 21 and turned over them to Vietnamese soldiers Saturday after robbing them.

Samyong suspects the Vietnamese soldiers of making the captain sign a false confession to secure a legal basis for fining the Koreans for violating Vietnamese territorial waters as there have been a number of similar cases reported. Samyong officials said they were convinced the Sun 702 was nowhere near Vietnamese waters when it was boarded.

The fishing company maintained the Sun 702 was returning to Pusan and the captain reported his ship had been sailing through the high seas.

The boat, detained for the 23rd day Thursday, has been located near Sa Dec, a town at 10 degrees of north latitude, 106 degrees 30 minutes of west longitude, about 100 kilometers up the Mekong River.

A Samyong official is in Bangkok waiting for a visa to enter Vietnam.

New Reunification Proposal by North Anticipated

SK1104075791 Seoul TONG-A ILBO in Korean 9 Apr 91 p 2

[Text] The government is anticipating that North Korea will partly revise its reunification line based on the confederal system of Koryo into one based on a provisional form of regional governments [chiyok chongbu] in the North and the South which would each have jurisdiction over diplomatic affairs and national defense until reunification is achieved. The government is also presuming that North Korea will propose negotiations with the South and announce such a revised reunification plan in a speech by President Kim Il-song during the month of April. Thus, the government is reported to be working out measures to cope with this situation.

The government is working out such measures following confirmation that North Korea has notified its allies through diplomatic channels of its willingness to revise the reunification method of the confederal system of Koryo, which has jurisdiction over diplomatic affairs and national defense, into the plan allowing the regional governments to have this jurisdiction.

With regard to this situation, a government official said, "It is anticipated that North Korea will announce such a revised reunification plan in Kim Il-song's speech during the second session of the Ninth Supreme People's Assembly which will open on 11 April, or during the 85th Congress of International Parliamentary Union [IPU] which will open on 29 April." He added, "In addition to the announcement of a revised reunification plan, there is a great possibility of a proposal for the convocation of a political consultative meeting for national reunification in order to discuss reunification methods between the North and the South."

This official noted, "According to what has been confirmed up to now, North Korea's revised plan, in view of the fact that it allowed the regional governments to have jurisdiction over diplomatic affairs and national defense, is similar to the concept of 'national alliance' between the North and the South as stipulated in the proposal for reunification based on the Korean people's common wealth made by the South some time ago. However, since the plan still maintains the national title of democratic confederal republic of Koryo and imposes preconditions on the confederal system, it is difficult to view the revised plan as an indication of changes in North Korea's policy and of recognition of 'two Koreas.'"

This official stressed, "If North Korea does not withdraw the preconditions which it put forward when proposing the confederal system of Koryo in October 1980, including the abolition of the National Security Law, replacement of South Korean Government with a democratic regime, legalization of all political parties and withdrawal of U.S. troops in South Korea, and if North Korea insists on reunification based on the political consultative meeting instead of dialogue between the authorities, our government cannot accept North Korea's revised plan."

Kim Tae-chung To Urge North To Join UN

SK1104005891 Seoul THE KOREA TIMES in English 11 Apr 91 p 2

[Text] Kim Tae-chung, president of the New Democratic Union, said he would send a letter to North Korean authorities urging them to join the United Nations along with South Korea.

He said the letter will be carried by a lawmaker of his party who is to visit Pyongyang late this month as a member of the South Korean delegation to the Inter-Parliamentary Union [IPU] conference.

The IPU conference is slated for April 29-May 4 in Pyongyang.

He said it is not right for South Korea alone to enter the world body since this could hinder unification.

And therefore, he said North Korea should join the United Nations, which he said would benefit both Koreas.

Overriding strong opposition from North Korea, South Korean authorities are to submit application for U.N. membership in August.

North Korea has persistently opposed separate membership of the two Koreas, arguing that it would perpetuate national division. It has called for a single U.N. seat alternately occupied by both governments, a step South Korea views as unworkable.

Cultural Organization Moots Exchange With North

SK1104020991 Seoul YONHAP in English 0127 GMT 11 Apr 91

[Text] Seoul, April 11 (YONHAP)—The Seoul-based federation of Artistic and Cultural Organizations of Korea has proposed to the Pyongyang-based general federation of unions of Korean literature and the arts to discuss cultural exchanges at the truce village of Panmunjom or in a third country in early June.

The proposal was made by Kang Sun-yong, chairman of the nation's biggest cultural and artistic umbrella group, in letters addressed to North Korea's Prime Minister Yon Hyong-muk and chairman Paek In- chun of the North Korean federation. The letters were delivered to the North Wednesday via the National Unification Board.

The letters propose each side send five delegates to the preparatory contact, which could be either at the truce village of Panmunjom or a third country.

They call for pure culture and art exchanges free of political character, and for artists to join inter-Korean high-level talks.

"Chaos has sprouted since temporary and indiscreet inter-Korean cultural exchanges were attempted by individuals or small groups in south and North Korea, so each representative authorized by both sides should have preparatory contacts as soon as possible," the letters say.

YONHAP Reports Volume of Trade With North

SK1104043591 Seoul YONHAP in English 0257 GMT 11 Apr 91

[By Kim Tae-sik]

[Text] Seoul, April 11 (YONHAP)—South and North Korea have traded commodities and materials worth 88,248,000 U.S. dollars in the last two and a half years in 197 transactions conducted through third-party brokers.

South Korea established guidelines for inter-Korean material exchange in August 1988. Of the deals since then, 188 were South Korean imports of North Korean materials and nine were exports of southern goods to the North. The value of North Korean goods to South Korean was 83-to-17.

There were four imports of North Korean materials worth 1,037,000 dollars in 1988, 57 worth 22,235,000 dollars in 1989 and 76 worth 20,879,000 dollars last year. In the first quarter of 1991, there were 51 imports worth 29,105,000 dollars for an accumulated total of 73,256,000 dollars.

There was one deal from South to North worth 69,000 dollars in 1989, four worth 4,731,000 dollars in 1990 and four worth 10,192,000 dollars in the first three months for an accumulated total of 14,992,000 dollars.

South Korea imported 10,471,000 dollars of hot-rolled coil, 9,350,000 dollars of zinc ingot, 5.74 million dollars of coal, 5,495,000 dollars of steel products and 4,132,000 dollars of cement.

Also purchased from the North were electrolytic copper (3,040,000 dollars), potatoes (4,021,000 dollars), Alaskan pollack (3,220,000 dollars), dried squid (2.4 million dollars), raw silk (1,861,000 dollars) and 33 other materials worth 16,759,000 dollars.

Items shipped to North Korea included textiles (3,010,000 dollars), sock looms (2,188,000 dollars), household electric appliances (440,000 dollars) and other materials worth 1,401,000 dollars.

A total of 150 South Korean companies engaged in inter-Korean trade and nine North Korean companies. All the trade was through brokers in Hong Kong and other third countries.

In most cases, businessmen from the two Koreas signed contracts in Hong Kong with brokers and the materials were shipped on the open seas aboard foreign-flag ships.

The businessmen had to pay a commission of about 10 percent of the trading amount, which is two to three times higher than the normal rate of 3-5 percent because the North Korean companies did not recognize the South Korean companies as trade partners and the South Korean firms had to pay cash in exchange for the bill of lading in Hong Kong.

Inter-Korean trade contributed somewhat to stabilizing the supply of materials in South Korea and helped ease the North's serious foreign exchange shortage, South Korean officials said.

South-North Korean trade is expected to be sharply boosted by the first agreement on direct barter of South Korean rice for North Korean coal and cement.

The two sides have reached rough agreement on export prices, means of clearance, tariffs and transportation.

In past agreements, the two sides came close to deciding that export prices be fixed by consultation based on international market prices, the swiss franc be used for payment, tariffs and duties be exempted, the railway between Seoul and the North Korean city of Shineuiju be reopened, and the South Korean ports of Inchon and Pohang and North Korean ports of Nampo and Wonsan be opened.

Inter-Korean trade may drastically increase when these matters are fully agreed upon, they said.

South Korea could sharply increase its imports of North Korean zinc ingot, cement, steel and anthracite because they contributed to a stable supply and are still scarce in South Korea.

North Korea could increase its imports of rice from South Korea, which has difficulty storing its excessive stocks, and boost its import of textiles and electric and electronic products.

Direct trade will save the 10 percent commission and this encourage trading companies of the two sides.

South to Barter-Trade Export Rice to North

SK1104021491 Seoul THE KOREA TIMES in English 11 Apr 91 p 1

[Text] South Korea will supply 5,000 tons of rice to North Korea in the first barter trade with the North to help solve its serious food shortages, government officials said yesterday.

An across-the-board South-North Exchange and Cooperation Committee authorized a private trading house to export the rice to a North Korean concern. Deputy Prime Minister-Unification Minister Choe Ho-chung chaired the committee meeting.

The Cheonji Trading Co. will soon ship the rice from Inchon to Nampo, about 150 kilometers to the north. The southern rice will be bartered for 30,000 tons of anthracite coal and 11,000 tons of cement.

The exact date and methods of delivery will be determined later but the rice will not be packaged as South Korean product and will be shipped by a vessel under a flag of a third country, according to the officials.

The barter trade is the first between the capitalist south and communist North since Seoul opened the door for economic cooperation with the North shortly after it successfully hosted the Olympic Games in October 1988.

Choe Pyong-po, spokesman of the Unification Board, said that the government would offer "positive support" for the promotion of such economic cooperation, hoping that it will contribute to the improvement of relations between the two sides.

South Korea has thus far insisted on economic cooperation and human exchanges as a means to build mutual confidence step by step in its strategy of gradual approach toward reunification. Meanwhile the North has called for political and military breakthroughs in one shot.

Choenji and the Pyongyang-based Kumgangsan International Trade and Development Co. agreed to the trade on March 18 and signed a contract 11 days later. Cheonji is a small trading firm, established in November last year with no more than five employees and the rice export is its first commercial accomplishment. Kumgangsan is a joint venture between the North's Kumgangsan Development Co. and the Japan-Korea Trading Co., run by Pak Kyong- yun, a Korean businessman residing in the United States.

Cheonji chairman Yu Sang-yol arranged the delivery of about 75 tons of rice, raised by Christian associations with the support of The Korea Times-Hanguk Ilbo, to the North on July 27 last year free of charge.

He later succeeded in keeping lines with Kumgangsan chairman Pak and president Pak Chong-kun open for negotiation on the barter trade in late January though the North had been badly upset by South Korean press reports about the rice donation.

This time, the North has agreed to local media reports on the trade in a rare shift of position which North Korea watchers here said reflects how serious the North Korean food problem is. The North suffered poor harvests due to bad weather last year, aggravating the food situation.

As of March 31, a total of 166 items had been allowed for import from the North with a total value of $62.8 million and seven items had been allowed for export to the North for $7.2 million.

Seoul regards shipments between the South and North as internal trade and imposes no tariffs, furthermore subsidizing any loss in the trade. The administration has earmarked 20 billion won for the compensation of possible losses.

North To Import 1 Million Tons of Thai Rice

SK1104020891 Seoul THE KOREA TIMES in English 11 Apr 91 p 1

[Text] Bangkok (Yonhap)—North Korea has agreed to introduce 500,000 tons of rice from Thailand this year and 500,000 tons in 1992-1993, Thai government officials said Tuesday.

The agreement was reached during North Korean Prime Minister Yon Hyong-muk's visit to Thailand in early February, they said.

The Pyongyang delegation had also hoped to buy 500,000 tons of Tapioca from Thailand and asked for Thai experts to help process the material for animal feed and distilling into alcohol.

In payment, North Korea offered steel and 350,000 tons of cement to Thailand, according to the officials.

North Korea opened an embassy in Bangkok March 20.

Brunei, Malaysia & Singapore

Malaysia

Mahathir Blames U.S. for Plight of Kurds

BK1104043091 Hong Kong AFP in English 0410 GMT 11 Apr 91

[Text] Kuala Lumpur, April 11 (AFP)—Malaysian Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamed has blamed the United States for encouraging a Kurdish revolt against the Iraqi Government and then refusing to go to the community's aid.

"They (the Kurds) staged the revolt without thinking of their own fate in the belief that they will get help from the U.S.," Dr. Mahathir said, adding that "unfortunately when the uprising took place help was not forthcoming."

The prime minister said on Wednesday that the government would donate 100,000 U.S. dollars to Kurd refugees fleeing the fighting for shelter in Iran and Turkey.

The money would be channelled to the Kurds through the Red Crescent (Red Cross) Society, he said, adding that more money would be donated if necessary.

BERNAMA news agency quoted Dr. Mahathir as describing the Iraqi military's attacks on the Kurds as "cruel."

But Dr. Mahathir said that Malaysia had no plans to lodge an official protest with the Baghdad government.

Further on Aid to Kurds

BK1104052091 Kuala Lumpur BERNAMA in English 0435 GMT 11 Apr 91

[Text] Kuala Lumpur, April 11 (OANA/BERNAMA)—The Malaysian Government will give U.S.$100,000 in aid to the Kurdish tribe fleeing war-torn Iraq.

Prime Minister Dr. Mahathir Mohamed said the amount would be channelled through the Red Crescent.

The aid was given on humanitarian grounds. More cash assistance could be considered when there was a need.

However, we are confident that the international community, especially the developed countries, will be able to offer more assistance.

The amount may not be much but it is the thought that counts. The government had also given out a similar amount to assist orphans as a result of the recent Gulf war, Dr. Mahathir said.

He added that it was sad to see the Iraqis imposing such hardship on their own people.

Dr. Mahathir also said countries should not meddle in the affairs of others as it would only bring unnecessary hardship to citizens.

The Kurdish problem was one good example. The Kurds were incited to rebel with the aim of toppling Saddam Hussein, he said.

Minister on Readiness To Send Officers to Gulf

BK1104094491 Kuala Lumpur BERNAMA in English 0742 GMT 11 Apr 91

[Text] Kuala Lumpur, April 11 (OANA-BERNAMA)—Malaysia is now waiting for the United Nations to set the date for deploying its group of military officers to the Iraq-Kuwait border to help the UN enforce the ceasefire in the Gulf, Foreign Minister Abdullah Ahmad Badawi said Thursday. He said Malaysia had agreed to the UN request to send officers for the United Nations Iraq-Kuwait Observation Mission (UNIKOM) set up to patrol the demilitarised zone on either side of the border.

We are proud that we are among the 32 countries invited by the United Nations to send the military observers to the Iraq-Kuwait peacekeeping force, he told a press briefing at the Foreign Ministry.

Apart from Malaysia, the other countries are Austria, Bangladesh, Britain, Canada, China, Denmark, Ecuador, Fiji, Finland, France, Ghana, Greece, Hungary, India, Indonesia, Ireland, Italy, Kenya, Nigeria, Norway, Pakistan, Poland, Romania, Senegal, Singapore, Sweden, Turkey, the Soviet Union, the United States, Uruguay, and Venezuela.

Defence Minister Najib Tun Razak said earlier this week that Malaysia was ready to send a 24-member military team of officers of the rank of mejar [major], led by a lt. kol. [lieutenant colonel], for the UN duties.

Abdullah said the mission at the Iraq-Kuwait border would be different from the UN Iran-Iraq Military Observer Group (UNIIMOG) in that all the five permanent members of the UN—U.S., Soviet Union, China, France, and Britain—would also be sending their own military observers.

Comprising more than 600 personnel, half of whom would come from the 32 invited countries, UNIKOM would be headquartered in Umm Qasr, inside the Iraqi border.

The group would include a field engineering unit to help clear the many mines and unexploded ordnance littering the area.

Abdullah said he had received a letter from UN Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar, congratulating the Malaysian UNIIMOG team for a job well done.

We are happy that we have lived up to the international role given to us and we hope we can maintain our performance, he added.

Canberra Urged To Adopt Friendlier Attitude

BK1104073091 Kuala Lumpur International Service in English 0600 GMT 11 Apr 91

[Text] Datuk Sri Dr. Mahathir Mohamed said the relationship between Malaysia and Australia will not improve unless Canberra adopts a more friendly attitude towards Kuala Lumpur. The prime minister said there was evidence that certain elements in Australia did not like Malaysia and were trying to destroy its image to deter foreign investments in the country. He stresses that

Malaysia would like to be friendly with all nations but it cannot be friendly with those who do not want to be friendly with Kuala Lumpur. Datuk Sri Dr. Mahathir said this when replying to questions from newsmen after presenting aid to Muslim orphans in the federal capital.

The prime minister was asked whether it was true that the government had directed all secretary-generals of ministries to have less official contact with Australia. He also said the relationship between Australia and Malaysia was strictly in accordance with diplomatic procedure. Datuk Sri Dr. Mahathir said he did not understand why Australia adopted its present attitude towards Malaysia and was making false claims about this country to discredit its image. Asked whether this had been going on for a long time, he replied, "Quite long". He said certain groups in Australia had made approach (?to this) to tarnish Malaysia's image. In addition, there was a firm which gave a wrong picture of the country to scare away foreign investments.

The prime minister said Malaysia would not lodge an official protest to the Australian Government because Kuala Lumpur felt that it would be of no benefit.

Nine More Leaders of Dissident Party Quit

BK0904104291 Kuala Lumpur NEW STRAITS TIMES in English 8 Apr 91 p 4

[Text] Kok Lanas, Sun. [Sunday]—More Semangat 46 [Spirit of 46 Party, a dissident faction of the United Malays National Organization] leaders have quit the party with the latest group comprising a divisional committee member and eight branch leaders from the Kok Lanas Division [in Kelantan].

They announced their decision to quit in a simple ceremony before breaking fast here last night.

They are divisonal committee member Che Mansor Che Amat, Kampung Gondang Branch information chief Ibrahimn Othman, Durian Hijau Branch Committee member Mohamed Yaakob, Serendah Committee member Hashim Isa, Sokor Committee member Razali Mohamed Noor, Setok Committee member Abdul Rahim Ismail, Gondang Youth Committee member Azhar Ismail, Kedai Kok Lanas youth chief Rahim Mahmud, and its Wanita [Women's] Committee member Siti Noorhashimah Ismail.

Che Mansor, speaking on behalf of the others, said they decided to leave the party because they felt that Semangat 46's struggle was over after the general election.

According to Che Mansor, he and the others will send letters to the division's secretary and state liaison secretary to inform them that they have quit the party.

Also present was former state Semangat 46 information chief Yaakob Mahmud.

Sources said the next few weeks could see more resignations as Semangat 46 members became increasingly vocal on the party leadership and shortcomings.

Party sources said the leadership was aware of the situation.

Singapore

U.S. Trade Report Called 'Inaccurate'

BK1104095291 Hong Kong AFP in English 0836 GMT 11 Apr 91

[Text] Singapore, April 11 (AFP)—The Singapore Government has described several allegations contained in a U.S. Government report on trade barriers as "inaccurate and misleading."

A Singapore Ministry of Trade and Industry statement released Wednesday and made available to the foreign press Thursday said the republic had one of the world's freest trading systems.

The U.S. trade estimate report cited allegedly unfair trading practices by Singapore in four areas—restrictions on the activities of foreign banks and law firms, a closed telecommunications sector, and a low level of tariff bindings.

A tariff binding is a country's commitment to maintaining a fixed tariff on a product for a certain period. Higher degrees of tariff binding are thought to encourage foreign trade by making tariffs more predictable. But the U.S. report's finding that Singapore's tariff binding level was low, covering less than one per cent of its imports compared to 98 per cent of America's, did not reflect the "relative openness of the two countries," the statement said.

The statement said 96 per cent of imports enter Singapore duty- free, and that only 15 per cent do so into the U.S.

It also said Singapore's tariffs and excise taxes on imported cigarettes have always been consistent with General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) rules, and were imposed not to protect the domestic market but to discourage smoking.

As for Singapore's banking industry, the ministry claimed the rate of foreign participation was probably unmatched anywhere else in the world.

There are 208 foreign banks and merchant banks from 32 countries operating here and only 13 of the 35 fully-licensed banks are local, said the statement, adding that the government felt any greater participation by foreign banks would make it difficult for Singapore to control its monetary and exchange rate policies.

Regulations banning foreign firms from practising Singapore law and limiting them to advising clients in certain legal areas—like international business transactions—are comparable to those in effect in many countries, the statement said. Of the 23 foreign law firms listed here, five are American.

According to the ministry, foreign lawyers were effectively barred from practising in the U.S. by regulations of individual states. Admission to the bar of one state, for example, does not give a lawyer the right to practice in other states.

Moreover, Singapore cannot take a "laissez faire" approach to foreign banks and lawyers by treating them simply as "competitive producers of economic services," because they could effect the country's monetary and judicial policies, the statement said.

The U.S. report strongly attacked Singapore's telecommunications sector, saying entry by U.S. firms was severely limited by restrictions on the sale of value-added network (VAN) services.

The report also accused Singapore Telecom of restricting market access through "unreasonably high volume-sensitive prices on leased-line date services" and "an ever-expanding definition of what constitutes basic services that the authority reserves for its own provision to the market."

But the ministry argued that there was no discrimination against U.S. firms, that Telecom charges on van services appplied to both local and foreign firms, and that in any event they have not prevented the growth of VAN services.

Of 16 VAN operators in Singapore, 10 are American and only six are local, the ministry added.

Cambodia

Hor Namhong Reiterates State Policy on Solution

BK1004151791 Phnom Penh Domestic Service in Cambodian 1300 GMT 10 Apr 91

[Interview with Foreign Minister Hor Namhong by Hashi Kitamura, correspondent of Japan's Asahi Television; date and place not given—read by announcers]

[Text] [Kitamura] During our visit, we saw many disabled people who were maimed by mines. What do you thing about this?

[Hor Namhong] The Pol Pot clique and its allies have intensified their war on mines. This is why there have been many (?soldiers), women, children, and elderly people who were maimed due to mine explosions. This is another tragedy that the genocidal alliance is causing on the Cambodian people.

[Kitamura] What is the State of Cambodia's stance regarding the document of the big five countries? Does the State of Cambodia disagree with this document?

[Hor Namhong] I must stress that we did not reject the UN peace plan. During the meeting held in Paris in December between the Supreme National Council [SNC] and the cochairmen, a final communique was issued. There are two important points in this communique. First, the Cambodian factions had accepted most of the fundamental points in the draft agreement worked out by the cochairmen. Second, the remaining questions should be further discussed in detail within the framework of the SNC and the Paris International Conference on Cambodia coordinating committee.

Since December, the State of Cambodia has not changed its stance. The State of Cambodia only wants the implementation of this final communique. Concerning the remaining questions, they are important points as follows:

The first point is that there should be concrete measures to prevent the return of the genocidal regime.

The second point relates to the military issue. It is very easy to dismantle and disarm the Phnom Penh army. But the same thing cannot be done to the Pol Pot clique and its allies. The dismantling and disarming of the Phnom Penh army will be an opportunity for Pol Pot to seize state power. Moreover, we are certain that if the Phnom Penh side wins in the elections, Pol Pot will immediately attack the capital of Phnom Penh because he has his army and arms hidden in the jungle. By then, who will be able to protect the Cambodian people? [Words indistinct] the SNC represents Cambodia's sovereignty, therefore it should play a full role in representing Cambodia's sovereignty.

[Kitamura] How are relations between the Cambodian Government and the new Thai military government?

[Hor Namhong] I am optimistic about Phnom Penh-Bangkok relations. This is because I must rely on the recent statement by the Thai foreign minister which made two points: First, the Thai Government will maintain relations with Phnom Penh, and, second, the policy of the new Thai Government is not different from that of the former Thai Government. As a matter of fact, in Poi Pet, a market has been opened for people to buy goods.

I think that relations between the Thai Government and Phnom Penh will bring mutual interests.

Further on U.S. Senator's Visit

BK1104051791 Phnom Penh Domestic Service in Cambodian 1300 GMT 10 Apr 91

[Text] During his visit to Cambodia from 5 to 6 April 1991, John McCain, U.S. senator from the Republican Party and head of the delegation of U.S. Senators, said: We have a common goal toward reaching a peaceful political solution and preventing the Pol Pot clique from returning to power. We should not waste time in our advance and should make necessary concessions in order to reach this solution and an eventual agreement.

In an interview with an SPK correspondent, John McCain stressed that the Cambodian people are generous and have given us a warm welcome and shown great cordiality. We were able to visit all places in town and the wonderful Angkor Wat where we had good experiences. We are waiting for peace to prevail in this region, so that the Cambodian people can enjoy a prosperous economy.

Concerning a solution to the Cambodian problem, John McCain expressed the hope for an agreement to be reached quickly by all parties concerned within the framework of

the solution of the five permanent members of the UN Security Council to move on toward ending the conflict.

Asked what the U.S. people are expecting from the Cambodian people, the senator said: I believe that the U.S. people want very much to see the Cambodian people achieve their goal in ending the fighting and the massacre. They also want to see and help the Cambodian people build a prosperous economy.

SRV's Do Muoi Greets Hun Sen on 40th Birthday

BK1104015691 Phnom Penh Domestic Service in Cambodian 1300 GMT 10 Apr 91

[Text] Recently, Comrade Hun Sen, member of the Political Bureau of the party Central Committee and chairman of the Council of Ministers of the State of Cambodia, received a greetings message from Comrade Do Muoi, member of the the Political Bureau of the CPV Central Committee and chairman of the Council of Ministers of the SRV. The message noted:

I would like to extend warmest regards and best wishes to you on your 40th birthday.

Comrade, may you enjoy good health, happiness, and greater successes in carrying out your noble duty.

May the harmonious solidarity and relations between Vietnam and Cambodia further strengthen and develop.

Son Sann Visits Thmar Puok-Banteay Chhma Region

BK1104070991 (Clandestine) Voice of the Khmer in Cambodian 0430 GMT 11 Apr 91

[Text] His Excellency Son Sann, president of the Khmer People's National Liberation Front [KPNLF] and prime minister of the Cambodian National Government, said during his visit to Thmar Puok and Banteay Chhma towns on Tuesday that the Cambodian faction installed in power in Phnom Penh by Vietnam has postponed the meeting to disscuss the Cambodian problem until May out of the hope that it might be able to seize all areas under the KPNLF control by April.

His Excellency Son Sann said that this is an attempt to prolong the Cambodian people's misery.

The Hun Sen group claimed that it was busy and thus would not be able to attend the meeting in April as proposed by the Paris International Conference on Cambodia [PICC] cochairmen.

In an address to the Cambodian people and KPNLF combatants who came to greet him at Banteay Chhma temple and an interview to the Voice of the Khmer radio correspondent in Thmar Puok town, His Excellency Son Sann said: What is more important than bringing an end to the Cambodian people's misery? The Heng Samrin-Hun Sen faction has refused to attend the meeting on the Cambodian problem to be held in April in line with the PICC cochairmen, claiming that its members were busy with visits to foreign countries. This clearly shows that this group does not think about the Cambodian people who are waiting for peace in Cambodia.

His Excellency Son Sann also said that the Phnom Penh side does not want the presence of the United Nations in Cambodia because the Vietnamese are still in Cambodia.

The KPNLF has announced that there are now 57,000 Vietnamese troops and 1.3 million Vietnamese civilians in Cambodia, although Vietnam has announced the total withdrawal of its troops from Cambodia.

Also during this visit to Thmar Puok and Banteay Chhma, His Excellency Son Sann appealed to the KPNLF combatants and Cambodian people to help take care of Cambodia's invaluable ancient objects from being ruined by the hooligans. He said that there should be a museum in this Thmar Puok-Banteay Chhma region where there are many ancient objects for keeping all the scattering ancient objects and stones to facilitate their maintenance.

The KPNLF has had control of Banteay Chhma and Thmar Puok towns since the end of September 1990 and has provided all facilities for the population there.

His Excellency Son Sann's visit, which was accompanied by his wife; Mr Ieng Muli, secretary general of the KPNLF and member of the SNC; and important figures in the KPNLF, is the second visit since the KPNLF seized this region from the Vietnamese aggressors.

Laos

Union Official Speaks on Youth Work at Congress

BK1004131191 Vientiane Domestic Service in Lao 0000 GMT 9 Apr 91

[Speech by Mrs. Thongvin Phomvihan, first secretary of the Lao People's Revolutionary Youth Union Central Committee, delivered at the Fifth Congress of the Lao People's Revolutionary Party held in Vientiane on 28 March—recorded]

[Text] The party has consistently paid attention to organizing, educating, training, and providing favorable conditions to our youths to further enhance our vanguard role in implementing the two strategic tasks outlined by the party through the process of carrying out the 3-unity, 4-offensive campaign.

In the construction and economic development work in many localities, the Lao People's Revolutionary Youth Union [LPRYU] has been granted contracts to execute various projects by the state, for example in repairing and building roads and irrigation canals, working on some projects outside working hours, planting industrial and fruit trees, and so forth. In many localities, youths have engaged in production by participating in building the economy from the level of the family economy upward, thus contributing to building wealth both for themselves and for the country and society.

In the education, cultural, and social fields, youths have become outstanding models in study and teaching. They have engaged in promoting supplementary education, gradually raising the standard of their education. At present, more than 5,000 youths have received education at the university or higher level.

In the arts, literary, and sports work, youths have tremendously contributed to the movements in composing songs, poems, and folk dancing verses. In the public health sector, youths have positively contributed to maintaining the 3-sanitation campaign in a considerably outstanding manner, fulfilling their duties in giving treatment and curing sick people, and carrying out a campaign to do away with backward beliefs which are incompatible with Lao traditions.

In national defense and public security maintainance work, hundreds or even thousands of youths have volunteered to join combat units to effectively defend offices, organizations, factories, schools, hospitals, localities, and ricefields.

With regard to the work of upgrading the organizational machine of the LPRYU, at present more than 30 percent of the total number of Lao youths and children have become members of the LPRYU. These comrades have enhanced their model leading role in many fields in implementing all lines and policies outlined by the party. I can affirm here that no success in any field can be achieved without the direct and active participation of our youths. These youth union members-workers have made direct contributions to winning collective victories for our country.

Educated and trained by the party, the LPRYU has grown steadily stronger and larger. On this ocasion, I would like to express our wholehearted gratitude to Comrade General Secretary Kaysone Phomvihan, the Lao People's Revolutionary Party [LPRP] Central Committee Political Bureau, and the Secretariat and members of the LPRP Central Committee for paying attention to guiding, leading, and encouraging our youths to contribute to working for the country.

In parallel with certain successes achieved by the LPRYU, numerous negative phenomena have also emerged among our youth movements and youth union members. For example, some of them have avoided going down to the grass roots, the countryside, and the mountanious regions. They do not want to go to the grass roots nor to leave cities and plains. Many phenomena displaying a lack of a sense of vigilance have also emerged among our youths. They have failed to clearly understand the subversive designs of the enemies and bad elements who have tried to create disunity and confusion among our youths, intoxicating and inducing them to work for them. A large number of our youths have been adversely affected by depraved cultures which do not conform to Lao traditions. These are some noticeble shortcomings in the movements of our LPRYU.

The party's correct line has become a decisive factor in our victory. The party always pays attention to upgrading its line, policies, and plans to conform to reality. It is also highly determined in trying to resolve all shortcomings in a timely manner. All this clearly testifies to the talent and clearcut responsibility of the LPRP in leading the entire people to firmly advance forward to attain our objectives.

To fulfill the orientation and duties outlined by the LPRP at this congress, on behalf of the LPRYU Central Committee and all LPRYU ethnic members throughout the country, I would like to express our determination to strive to consolidate and strengthen the unity among the multiethnic youths and to rally, together with the Lao people, around the LPRP. With our profound gratitude toward the party, the LPRYU Central Committee and LPRYU members pledge to firmly adhere to the objective of the revolution, to ardently participate in the cause of restructuring outlined by the party, to stand ready to answer all sacred calls of the party and the country at all times and under all circumstances, and to consolidate and build the organizational apparatuses of the LPRYU to become strong and firm politically, ideologically, and organizationally.

We are now and will continue to implement the party's restructuring through our own essence and activities which are in conformity with the new conditions. We will strive to extensively mobilize the youth movements and encourage all youths to pay attention to financial work by creating conditions to gradually become self-sufficient in accordance with the line of restructuring in the socioeconomic field outlined by the LPRP. We pledge to profoundly study the party's line of restructuring and to translate the resolution adopted at this congress into reality.

Philippines

Manglapus Interviewed on U.S. Bases Issue

HK1004145191 Quezon City ABS-CBN 2 Television in English 1430 GMT 1 Apr 91

[Interview with Foreign Affairs Secretary Raul Manglapus by correspondents Teodoro Benigno of THE PHILIPPINE STAR, Rodolfo Romero of the MANILA BULLETIN, and Antonio Abaya of THE CHRONICLE from the television program "Options"—live or recorded; italicized passages in Tagalog]

[Text] [Benigno] Good evening, Mr Secretary. Welcome to "Options." Mr Secretary, you know that you are the first nonpolitical guest of "Options," in the sense that we could not ask you questions about the political situation in the Philippines, except as they pertain to the question of the U.S. military bases and foreign policy issues involving the Philippines. So, my first question, Mr. Secretary, is on the bases issue. It's an issue very hot on the griddle so I would like to ask you how soon do you expect to conclude a new treaty with the United States and do you have any hopes that the Senate will ratify the treaty.

[Manglapus] Thank you, by the way, for being considerate about my inability to answer any direct questions that are political or domestic in character. Yes, we are facing next week what hopefully will be the last round of talks and immediately after that we hope that we can conclude the negotiations. The second part of your question is?

[Benigno] If the Senate will ratify.

[Manglapus] I hope that we can put together a package that will meet the concerns and some of the doubts that the

senators have been publicly expressing. It is their duty to express their feelings in public and we appreciate that. I have been in close touch with them. I have been briefing on the situation and they have been giving me their suggestions and advice. We consider their suggestions very important indeed. But I hope that we can put together a package that will hopefully meet their concerns.

[Benigno] Mr Secretary, a follow up. It seems that the core of the discussions is concentrated on the, how do you call that, money or the rental issue. And it seems that our asking figure is $825 million a year and the United States has countered with something like $320 million a year. How do you expect this contrast in figures to finally resolve itself, sir.

[Manglapus] We hope that we can arrive at a package that will be something that will meet the economic needs of the Philippines and, at the same time, will also meet the position of the United States, which repeatedly has been protesting that they are not in a position to pay much more because of what they consider as the obvious expenses that they are going through around the world. The actual figures may not actually represent the ultimate impact of the prospective package on our economy. We have, as you know, been talking about enhancing the package by going into such things as debt reduction. And also, we should not forget that when we speak of debt reduction, we don't only refer to foreign debt but even domestic debt reduction, as I understand, could have an even stronger positive impact on our economy than the foreign debt.

[Abaya] That means that the Americans would provide the funds to pay these domestic debts?

[Manglapus] They would provide the funds that would enable us to undertake programs...

[Abaya, interrupting] At least we hope so.

[Manglapus] ...that would reduce the debt problem. One of them is of course the bond that we have been talking about. Secretary Estanislao has just returned from the United States. We asked him to go to get into the more intricate financial details that are involved in our negotiations, and he has come back with a report that is positive. He feels that there may be things that we haven't yet, sort of, we did not think of before he even went to the United States some three weeks ago. That may be possible of insertion in the package.

[Abaya] You mean these are soft compensation package.

[Manglapus] These are... yes, so, you might call it so. Soft is something that is not always, that is not the best word. I wish we could find a better word to describe a portion of the compensation that is not appropriated by the United States Congress.n The hard part is, the term hard is used to refer to that part of the compensation which is appropriated by the United States.

[Benigno] You can use the term non-hard. [laughter]

[Manglapus] But there is, for example, when I negotiated in 1988, the thing which I signed with Mr Shultz. The so-called soft part has become very hard indeed, if I may use the term. There was a portion of that package which I obtained in 1988 which enabled us to reach the figure of $1.2 billion, aside from the $481 million hard, which enabled us to undertake a debt reduction program. Some people don't remember that there is already an ongoing debt reduction program, using so-called rapidly disbursed ESF [Economic Support Fund] funds. That's a rather formidable expression, rapidly disbursed ESF funds. But all that means really is that the United States agreed to change its policy of not allowing public money to be used for private debt reduction. It made a 180-degree turn leading ultimately to the so-called Brady Plan which is now in existence and allowed us to use ESF funds up front to buy back private debts through a series of bond raising instruments, etc. We are now able to say that we have reduced our private debts through that package...

[Abaya, interrupting] What's the amount?

[Manglapus] By about almost $500 million.

[Abaya] That's the amount of the debt that was retired?

[Manglapus] That was reduced, yes.

[Romero] Let me shift the discussion away, Mr Secretary, for a minute from the money part of the whole exercise to the question of what happens if the Senate rejects the treaty. Of late, there has been a great deal of heated discussion, some of it taking an increasingly legalistic tone about consultations in the event that the Senate takes a negative attitude towards any treaty which seems to be in the offing. What is your own view about the idea of submitting the treaty that resorts to the people in a nonbinding consultation process.

[Manglapus] I was telling Tony here about my views on consultations, namely that consultation is a process that is inevitable once the treaty is accomplished. I don't think we can avoid what is going to happen once we sign a treaty. Immediately first, the government will have to stand up and defend it. We can't sign a treaty and then sit back and wait for the Senate to look at it by themselves. We have to explain to the people what it is that we signed. We have to defend it. We have to go into detail. Now, that is consultation. Even if we don't do that, I was telling Tony, how are we going to stop the NGO's [nongovernmental organizations], schools, rotary clubs, all these people from getting themselves involved in their own consultation process. I foresee that even if we do our own at defending, there will be private organizations holding their own seminars and the anti-bases people would also start their own consultations. That will be their right to do so. And so, even if we don't say it, it's going to happen. Now, that is different, however, than the formal referendum that is mentioned in the Constitution. And I was again telling Tony and Teddy that there is going to be a legal battle over the language of the Constitution because the Constitution says ratification and if the Congress should so decide, a referendum. It does not say, and thereafter, or and afterwards, or and after. It just says, and.

[Romero] So, legally there are [word indistinct] that could come ahead of the Senate action.

[Manglapus] There are those who feel that an action could come before. However, I was just telling some friends that for a referendum to take place the Senate has to agree.

[Benigno] We're really warming up now. We have to pause for a brief break.

[Abaya] Mr Secretary, when a new bases treaty is signed, hopefully next week or in 10 days, obviously the government, the executive arm of the government, will wage an information campaign to explain why it signed this treaty. What would be the tenor of this information campaign, is it going to be neutral or will it be favorable to one side or another.

[Manglapus] If we do sign a treaty, we're going to have to defend what we signed. The time to be neutral would then have been gone with the negotiations. When we have informed the public about why we were going into negotiations last year, we were being as subjective as we could. But once the treaty is signed, we're going to have to defend what we signed. As we say in Tagalog: *We are at stake. We have to defend it.*

[Abaya] So, it will be an advocacy type of information campaign?

[Manglapus] It will have to be. We wouldn't be sitting on the fence. We couldn't afford that anymore because we would have to be using the time between the actual signing and the process of ratification to explain to the people why we signed.

[Benigno] *How long will the information campaign last?*

[Manglapus] *Until the ratification is over. We could not say when...*

[Benigno] *No. Is it not that there would be consultation after or before the ratification?*

[Abaya] *The consultation can take place...*

[Manglapus, interrupting] Like I said, included in the consultation is the defense of... [changes thought] Consultation is a broad term. What do you mean by consultation? It means that anybody can talk about it, can hold forums, can hold debates, public discussions and, at the same time, it means also that whoever signs the treaty, and that's the government—the executive department of the government—will have to stand up and defend it.

[Benigno] But the answer to the consultation will either be a simple yes or a simple no. *Is that not true?*

[Manglapus] *No. Like I said earlier, consultation does not mean that we are going to have a formal referendum.* It could be in the form of, well, just like the consultations we used to have on the Constitution. It just could be in the form of a public forum all over the Philippines. It could be in the form of debates on television. It could take many, many shapes.

[Romero] But if it's not in the form of a categorical yes or no, the pressure on the Senate, if pressure is what we are driving at, would not be so strong. It's an ambiguous statement.

[Manglapus] It would be off my hands once that happens. Once we signed, the government itself is going to, the whole government, will have to stand up and defend it. So, if the government should decide to conduct more or less formal consultations similar to a referendum, I suppose that that could be done. It would not be binding however to do a nonbinding referendum and the answers that you suggest: Yes, no, maybe, don't know, all of the above.

[Abaya] This could be before the Senate passes the...

[Manglapus, interrupting] I suppose that that could be. There would be those in the Senate who might object but if it is an informally done thing, it doesn't even have to be conducted, as I said, by the government. It could be a coalition of NGO's. Both for or against the treaty, we might decide to hold it.

[Romero] Mr. Secretary, we are talking about what ifs. Now, what if the consultations that are, the consultation process is done, is conducted all over the country on television and elsewhere, indubitably points to a Filipino nation's wish to have the bases stay longer, a majority of the people. What if the Senate does, nevertheless, go ahead and, you know, reject the treaty. What then?

[Manglapus] I think that's the end of the treaty.

[Romero] Okay, it will be the end, legally the end of the treaty, but in terms of the social-political situation, what then?

[Benigno] Will that not affect the Philippine-American relations?

[Romero] Here's people saying that they want the bases to stay. Here's people ostensibly representing them saying they don't want the bases to stay. Truthfully, it can't be just, that's the end of it.

[Manglapus] Well, let us not prejudge the Senate in this way. I think the Senate will know what to do when the time comes. There are legal luminaries in the Senate who will understand the legal situation, I think, perhaps, a bit better than us here at this table. And I want to be fair to my colleagues in the Senate and say that when the time comes, they'll know what to do. But if you ask me the legal question: What happens if they reject it in the ratification process? What is the result on the treaty? I think that's the end of it.

[Abaya] Do you see a possibility where the treaty rejected by the present Senate is picked up by the new senate that's elected in 1992 and revive and ratify it.

[Manglapus] That's an interesting question. I think we may have to negotiate a new treaty.

[Abaya] Ah, it will have to be a new treaty when there's a new Senate.

[Manglapus] Once it is rejected by the Senate.

[Abaya] I see.

[Manglapus] I doubt whether the constitutional jurisprudence will allow a second ratifying process.

[Benigno] Secretary, many have the belief that President Cory Aquino will play a very crucial role in seeking to influence the Senate to approve or ratify a new bases treaty when finally concluded and specially if a consultation should prove that a majority of the Filipino people are in favor of such a treaty. When I say I was hopeful, I was thinking of the possibility that the president will actually take a very active hand on a one on one basis, asking each particular senator to vote or to ratify the bases treaty.

[Manglapus] Well, that would not be unconstitutional. It would not be illegal, I mean, presidents all over the world do this thing. There's nothing wrong with it. The President of the United States always has senators and congressmen for lunch.

[Benigno] So, my next question is this, Mr. Secretary. If the president does that and really exerts her best efforts to contact individually each member of the Senate, would that improve the chances of the treaty being ratified?

[Manglapus] Well, I think that the respect that they pay to her as the chief executive and if she is perceived by them as expressing what is equivalent to the will of the people, I think that would have a positive effect on the senators' vote.

[Benigno] *Anyway, she helped many senators to become elected.*

[Manglapus] Well, if that is what you are driving at, *then I'm among those.* [laughter]

[Romero] Before we leave the subject of the bases, Mr Secretary, we have other things to speak of, to talk about. I'd like to ask something which relates to the budget in connection to the bases. In your deliberations in our panel, was there enough discussions devoted to the fact that with the American umbrella gone, we will then have to provide for our defense and that will mean reallocating the budget so that some of it will go towards beefing, strengthening the external defenses.

[Manglapus] Are you asking whether our panel...

[Romero] You know your panel. Was there an extensive discussion on this? You know, you could not just leave things as they are. If the Americans pull out, something must be put in its place.

[Manglapus] Yes, indeed. However, I would caution against assuming that the United States bases here are performing an indispensable role in Philippine defense. There are certain aspects of our defense that have been entrusted to the United States as our ally, not only under the Military Bases Agreement but under the Mutual Defense Treaty. However, the going away of the bases would not be... would not result in our dramatically upgrading, would not necessarily result in our having to upgrade dramatically our defense budget, because there are certain obligations that would remain with the United States as long as the Mutual Defense Treaty exists.

[Benigno] Mr Secretary, we'll pause again.

[Romero] Mr Secretary, as the bases negotiations have proceeded, attention has been devoted mainly to what we can call the nitty-gritty and, of late, it has been mainly the money part of it. Left behind in the discussions has been the larger issues like the regional aspect of the American military presence in this country. From the very start you've always said we should not look at this strictly from the bilateral viewpoint but we should bring in the regional viewpoint to see what our ASEAN, partners in ASEAN, have thought about the American military presence here. What is the state of ASEAN thinking about the bases?.

[Manglapus] I'm glad you brought that up Rudy because in June we are going to hold, in Manila, the first of a series of dialogues on security in the South East Asian region. This will be attended by all the ASEAN countries and we are inviting participation from the United States, Japan, the Soviet Union, and China. This will help us form a concensus in this region about what we want to do about the security of our region. I would like to stress this time that when people perceive the Soviet Union breaking up as the other superpower, there were some who—and as Tony remembers there was even a writer, political scientist, an American-Japanese—wrote about death, the end of history. But now, we are beginning to see that just because there's no more on this second superpower, it doesn't mean, therefore, that we need not worry about security. There are other powers, middle powers, that have appeared and one of them has just been defeated in the war in the Middle East. And again we don't need a prospective enemy to talk about friendship and security, mutual understanding in a region. And that's what we are going to do here in Manila. We tried to do this, by the way, many years ago under the regime of President Magsaysay. I was then undersecretary and I became the secretary general of the thing called the South East Asia Treaty Organization Founding Conference. As you know, because that was not born here, it was born outside the region. It was brought here by John Foster Dulles. It did not succeed. We only were able to get three Asian countries, one of them not even from Southeast Asia. It was Pakistan, Thailand, and the Philippines. And now its gone, in effect. Now, I think the Americans themselves are beginning to learn from this lesson, and when I was in the United States two weeks ago, President Bush made a victory speech before the Congress, which I think was telecast here, in which he said in effect that in the Middle East there has to be talk of security arrangements. But the security of the Middle East must be first, the responsibility of the countries in the region. And the United States would be ready to help only if the United States is asked to help.

[Abaya] Mr Secretary, you are talking about this dialogue that will be held in June. Now, I'm wondering about the timing of this. This is more or less at the time when the treaty will be ratified or not or when the referendum would be put into place. Is this coincidence or was it really designed that way?

[Manglapus] No, it is coincidence, Tony, because what is happening is that the initiative was taken by the Philippines in July last year. I, myself, made the proposal at the

foreign ministers' meeting of ASEAN. And it had to go through a process before we were able finally to put together the first meeting here in June. Our co-organizer of this meeting is Thailand, but all the ASEAN countries are coming. It just happens that June is the time when all the countries are available. But it is not timed to coincide or to [words indistinct] because by that time the treaty will have been signed and the concensus process will not be finished. It will only begin here but it's going to go through an upward process culminating perhaps in the ASEAN top level summit meeting in Singapore in December of this year. By that time, this whole ratifying process will have finished.

[Romero] What actually will result from this? Would there be a declaration at the end of this?

[Manglapus] I cannot foretell. This is only a free will. It's a new thing. It's never happened before in this region. And I don't know whether it will result in... [changes thought] everybody's just saying, well we've heard each other talk and there's nothing more to talk about.

[Romero] [Passage indistinct]

[Manglapus] No, it is Japan, China, the Soviet Union, and the United States will be invited on a nongovernment basis.

[Benigno] Mr Secretary, but in fact the real politik is that, after the sensational victory of the allied forces and principally the United States in the Gulf war, America has reasserted her position not only as a superpower but as the only superpower in the world right now. And it is a function that she will have to [word indistinct] to Asia and the Pacific considering that America's trade with this part of the world is much, much more than her trade with Europe. And the fact to see is that her alliance with Japan constitutes the second pillar of America's foreign policy relations. Now, how can you maintain neutrality or a balancing act among the ASEAN countries here and at the same time recognize the fact that America is here to stay as a supreme power in the Pacific?.

[Manglapus] Well, we are negotiating with the United States a treaty that may result in a period for them to adjust themselves to reality. At the same time, we are going through this dialogue process which may result also in the region deciding that we are going to defend ourselves, but we might also ask the help of countries outside the region.

In fact, I am appealing to our countrymen to not view the question of the bases of the United States here in isolation from what is going on in the rest of the world, and I'm glad you brought that up because, well as you said, the stupendous allied victory in the Middle East led by the United States has reaffirmed American power all over the world.

[Benigno] Mr Secretary, there's another, how do you call that, not a jarring note but a contrasting note. The fact that the Zone of Peace, Freedom and Neutrality [ZOPFAN] remains a gospel of the ASEAN countries at least in terms of scripture, but realities seem to be otherwise. I mean in the sense that under their breath, they would like the Americans to stay in this part of the world and the bases play a very vital role here. How do you assess the situation, Mr Secretary?

[Manglapus] I think that the situation is not irreconcilable. I don't think that the ZOPFAN idea necessarily negates the wisdom of a dialogue of security in Southeast Asia. I think that as I said, in answer to Rudy, it could very well be that the result of the dialogue might be, well, the best way to be secure is to be neutral. As I said to him just before this program, to be neutral doesn't mean that all you have to do is say, I am neutral. You still have to dialogue with the rest of the world for them to recognize that you are neutral. That is how Austria is neutral; Sweden, Switzerland, they are not neutral just because they declared themselves neutral. It is because the world agreed to keep them neutral.

[Benigno] Mr. Secretary, I'm sorry, we have run out of time. As a last question, we would like you to do a sort of sum up on the bases issue for our audience.

[Manglapus] I would say that what we are trying to do here in these negotiations is to assert what the Filipinos would like to be asserted, namely our sovereign right as a nation. Now, there are those who equate asserting sovereignty with immediately eliminating the facilities without even giving them a transition period. I do not accept that. I feel that asserting sovereignty could also mean a revision of our relations with the United States within the context even of a period of transition on the bases by changing the conditions of our relations such as, we are now talking about the so-called SOFA, status of forces agreement, some provisions of which in the actual, the current agreement have been offensive to our justice department, Department of Justice, and also have been offensive to the sensibilities of our people. The question of criminal jurisdiction, for example, and the question of who controls what; the question of the extent to which the United States might use these bases. We are no longer talking of the so-called unhampered use, which has been rejected morally by our people. I think we can have an agreement that could result in a transition period and still assert our sovereignty by making sure that the relationship, even if it is found in a treaty embodying a transition period, will be one approaching the equality that we see lacking in the current agreement.

[Benigno] Thank you very much, Mr. Secretary. It has been a very instructive and illuminating evening with you.

[Manglapus] Thank you. Thank you very much.

Bases Panel To Draft Unified Compensation Scheme

HK1104052891 Manila PHILIPPINES NEWSDAY in English 11 Apr 91 pp 1, 2

[By Arthur I. Baruad]

[Text] The Philippine bases panel has been instructed by President Aquino to come up with a unified money package based on a new bases compensation formula, which will include the original offer made by Foreign Secretary Raul Manglapus.

This was disclosed yesterday by Representative Jose de Venecia (LDP [Struggle of Philippine Democrats], Pangasinan), chairman of the House committee on foreign affairs, who explained that he was directed by the President yesterday to meet with Manglapus and Finance Secretary Jesus Estanislao to draw up a unified compensation scheme for the bases treaty.

De Venecia said he, Manglapus and Estanislao will work out an acceptable formula which will consolidate the different compensation schemes proposed by them individually, to maximize benefits derived from the extension of the bases' stay in the country. The meeting will be held tomorrow at the foreign office in the Philippine International Convention Center.

De Venecia said that the unified package would inevitably include the original proposal made by Manglapus to U.S. Chief Negotiator Richard Armitage saying this has already been considered by Washington. He said, however, that the soft component would have to be "diversified," which will spell out an approach to quantify "creative bases-related economic benefits." He pointed out that inasmuch as the U.S. government has a problem with regards to the appropriated portion of RP's [Republic of the Philippines] money offer, the Philippine government instead would maximize the non-appropriated or non-budgetary items of the proposed package.

De Venecia earlier said that the Philippines would get as much as $2 to $3 billion in economic benefits for the extension of the stay of the U.S. military installations if the transition period would be stretched to nine years from the original seven years as originally proposed. He put forth a compromise of nine years to bridge the gap between the U.S.'s position of 10-12 years and RP's seven years but this he attached to the extension of the Philippine Assistance Program (PAP), a U.S.-initiated funding program to revitalize the country's sagging economy.

Earlier, foreign affairs department officials said that the Estanislao formula would now be included in the "soft component" of the financial package and that the "hard core" portion of Manglapus's package would remain. Manglapus has proposed a total of $825 million in annual bases compensation which consists of $400 million in "hard cash" grants and $425 million in non-budgetary items.

Estanislao had proposed a package that includes all U.S.-related financial assistance to the Philippines. Estanislao claimed that with his proposal, the government would get as much as $1 billion in economic benefits. The Estanislao proposal, which he presented to U.S. officials last month, has, however, been scrapped. President Aquino last week ordered the Philippine bases panel to stick to the Manglapus bid.

De Venecia stressed that there is a consensus to keep the hard cash portion of the Manglapus package, but division exists on the items that will be included in the non-cash component of the offer. He said that the three would work out the details of the "soft component."

De Venecia said that the meeting tomorrow is the second to be held among the three officials in an effort to come up with a consolidated Philippine compensation position. He also expressed optimism that the U.S. government would be amenable to a new Philippine proposal. "I believe that the United States government would consider favorably our proposals," he said, referring to the new compensation package that would be crafted by the three.

In a related development, U.S. embassy spokesman Stanley Schrager said that progress on the ongoing technical level talks has been made by both the Philippine and the U.S. panels, and said he believed a tentative agreement on defense cooperation issues would be arrived at. He said that the talks between U.S. senior adviser Edward Baker and Defense Undersecretary Feliciano Gacis Jr. will end tomorrow. Schrager, however, refused to give details of the "progress" of the talks.

Gacis and Baker met for technical panel discussions Monday on defense cooperation issues, particularly the "cluster principle" that would be applied to Clark Air base upon the termination of the current agreement. The two sides will also chart the details of the U.S. reduction of military presence in the two U.S. facilities during the agreed term of the transition period.

New Military Chief Abadia Discloses Priorities

HK1104054491 Quezon City Radyo ng Bayan in Tagalog 0500 GMT 11 Apr 91

[Text] Major General Lisandro Abadia, new Armed Forces chief of staff, disclosed four [number as heard] priorities which he would undertake during his leadership. Foremost is ridding the country of communist and rightist rebels and Muslim secessionists. Second is to carry on with the internal reforms within the Armed Forces, which have recently been divided, thus resulting in the six previous coup attempts. Third is ridding the military of graft and corruption. Abadia said he is due to take oath as the new chief of staff on Friday. He will replace General Rodolfo Biazon.

Editorial Urges Abadia To Decline Appointment

HK1004070391 Manila PHILIPPINES NEWSDAY in English 10 Apr 91 p 10

["Turn of Events" column by Francisco S. Tatad: "Time for a Grand Gesture"]

[Text] Santayana is being proved right once more. Those who fail to learn their lesson from history are condemned to repeat it. Ferdinand Marcos erred when he promoted and maintained his favorite military officers over the heads of many of their seniors. This gave birth to Lt Col Honasan's RAM (Reform the Armed Forces Movement), and finally to the EDSA [Epifanio de los Santos Averne] revolt that caused his fall. Mrs Aquino, who acceded to power on the crest of that revolt, is now repeating the very same mistakes that caused the fall of her predecessor. This is not just a mistake. It is a crime. Will she end in the same ignominy, or is there a special way out for her? It is too early to tell. But the signs are not encouraging.

Metro Manilans were roused from sleep in the early hours of Tuesday morning by several bomb explosions, hours after Maj Gen Alexander Aguirre resigned his position as AFP [Armed Forces of the Philippines] deputy chief of staff in protest against Mrs Aquino's naming of Army Chief Maj Gen Lisandro Abadia as AFP chief of staff, to succeed the outgoing Lt Gen Rodolfo Biazon. Abadia is a competent officer, but he is junior to Aguirre and several others, who had expected to be considered for the promotion. In the EDSA revolt, he was with the losing camp, while the senior officers he has now overtaken were all with the victors.

There will be no coup, Aguirre assured the nation, as he asked junior officers who had wanted to resign with him to remain in the service. But he alone will not decide whether or not there will be a new coup. The natural impulse of observers and plain citizens is to expect the opposite of his statement.

One thing is clear: RAM's crusade and clarion call have been validated once more; it is not unlikely that the disaffected rank and file will see timely merit in RAM's proposed solution. Indeed, the tide has begun to swirl, and Aguirre's resolve to remain a man of the Constitution will be respected but will not be strong enough to dam the onrushing waters.

In a country governed by fast-changing moods, the prodigious electoral fever whipped up by preparations for the May 1992 presidential elections is likely to be arrested by a return to the coup fever of Mrs Aquino's first four years. And the threat will be coming not from the RAM-KSP [Soldiers of the Filipino People] underground but from within the active military organization, under the command of those who had been her loyal defenders in the past seven mutinies and coup attempts. The prospect is unnerving. Can such a scenario be prevented from unfolding?

The President must do everything within her power to prevent it, but what can she do? What are her options? The deed has been done. She cannot now withdraw Abadia's appointment without losing any and all semblance of authority and power as Commander-in-Chief. Yet the appointment should be reconsidered, and a new appointee considered, if she is to retain the loyalty of the forces that had defended her position all these years.

Abadia alone can help the President now by thanking her for the honor of his appointment but finally asking her to consider somebody else. As Jean-Paul Sartre rejected the Nobel Prize for Literature (many people will find the comparison odious), let him now decline this appointment, no matter how much he may have coveted it before it came.

That would elevate him to a status higher than that of any Chief of Staff or secretary of national defense. It would turn him into a new symbol of selflessness and patriotism, and the military and the entire nation would be in his debt forever.

It is not easy to ask this of any man. But if Abadia wants to become bigger than what any officer can become, here is his chance; it comes once in a million years. He has been named Chief of Staff: if he accepts it and it is confirmed by the Commission on Appointments, it would surely rekindle the enmities and deepen the divisions that have plagued the AFP since 1986. He could end up holding on to an empty legacy, even if no coup arose and both he and Mrs Aquino finished their respective terms.

But if, in order to bring unity to a divided AFP and a divided nation, he politely declines the appointment after it has been announced, he would be known forever as the only general who declined this most-coveted of all military appointments. His example would endure forever. He would be a role model for all our children's children. Every soldier will once more be proud of his profession; the nation will once more be proud of its soldiers.

Such grand gesture exists only in fiction. But there is no reason we should not endeavor to give it a real existence. And right now, it is the only thing that can save the military and the nation from Mrs Aquino's appalling stupidity and incompetence. Nothing else, and nothing less, will now heal the deep wound reopened by the President's blunder.

In the name of everything good and decent that our people have longed for these past troubled years, we ask Abadia to carefully consider this option. All he had wanted to be was to become the highest ranking of all generals. He has got that, and now we ask him to consider something bigger. To be a unifier of a divided nation. And should he find appropriate merit in the proposal, we would urge him to ask Mrs Aquino to accompany him in this grand gesture by announcing her own resignation, effective on the day he renounces all rights to his new position. This is the least she can do to make reparations for her most egregious errors.

We are—if the democratic struggle were a race—on our last lap towards the May 1992 elections. It is a critical stretch in our journey as a nation. We cannot fail back to a new period of constitutional instability and uncertainty that could abort our electoral process and pervert our newly restored democratic institutions. We must do everything to protect our democratic gains from a presidency that does not know the limits of its irresponsibility and incompetence.

National Security Adviser on Aguirre's Resignation

HK1104053891 Manila DWIZ Radio News 882 in Tagalog 0400 GMT 11 Apr 91

[Text] National Security Adviser Rafael Ileto stated that Major General Alexander Aguirre's sentiments and reasons for resigning as deputy chief of staff of the Armed Forces of the Philippines are valid and respected by the government. Ileto said Aguirre's resignation would not result in widespread division in the military, although he has supporters who are still in active service. Ileto assured that the possibility of a new coup d'etat is remote because of the professionalism the military has gained in the past

years. However, he admitted that Aguirre's resignation may result in a division in the Armed Forces of the Philippines.

Ramos Rejects Call To Resign, Warns Aguirre

HK1104044291 Quezon City MALAYA in English 11 Apr 91 pp 1, 8

[By Noel Bartolome, Chit Estella, Cris Larano, and Jodeal Cadacio]

[Text] Defense Secretary Fidel Ramos yesterday urged resigned Armed Forces deputy chief Maj. Gen. Alexander Aguirre to stop protesting in public the appointment of Maj. Gen. Lisandro Abadia as new AFP [Armed Forces of the Philippines] chief. "Since he (Aguirre) has already stated his case, this is the time he should stop," Ramos said.

Aguirre resigned his post Monday and took a one-year leave to protest President Aquino's choice of Abadia as outgoing AFP chief Gen. Rodolfo Biazon's successor. He claimed that Abadia's appointment was influenced by partisan politics.

Ramos said there is a limit to what military officers can say. "We must not incite to violence or rebellion," Ramos told members of Martha's Vineyard, a socioreligious group. Ramos also rejected the call of Sen. Juan Ponce Enrile (NP) [Nacionalista Party] for his resignation, saying he was consulted by the President regarding the criteria for selection of the new AFP chief. He said he did not recommend any candidate.

National Security Director Rafael Ileto warned that Aguirre's criticism against the Abadia appointment, some of which Ileto admitted as valid, could lead to dissension within the Armed Forces. "It could be of some concern because, as I said, he is espousing an opinion which maybe others in the military would follow or would believe in," he said.

Ileto said that although Aguirre's intention to wait for a new administration before returning to military services is legal, "it might not be right, morally speaking." Ileto said he also did not recommend any candidate.

Executive Secretary Oscar Orbos said Malacanang is open to Ramos' suggestion that a probe be conducted on Aguirre's charges of politicking, but asked the defense chief to file a formal proposal. Orbos, who allegedly suggested the appointment of Abadia to Mrs Aquino, denied any politicking in the choice of Abadia. "Nobody influenced anyone on this. It was a decision made by the President," he said. Several congressmen, meanwhile, expressed their "unequivocal support" for Abadia's appointment. In a resolution principally authored by Rep. Arturo Borjal (disabled sector), the congressmen said, "Abadia is the right man for the right job at the right moment."

"Abadia is just the leader who will inject greater dynamism, creativity, and innovation to the AFP's approaches to the nation's security problems, particularly the 20-year-old insurgency problem," the resolution said. Abadia pioneered the "Lambat-Bitag" anti-insurgency strategy and conceptualized the Citizens' Armed Forces Geographical Units.

Sen. Ernesto Maceda (LP [Liberal Party]) said Aguirre's allegations that he helped engineer the appointment was baseless. "I can never be the reason for Abadia's appointment as AFP chief because I am not supported by or even invited to Malacanang," he said.

Maceda said that when Aguirre was promoted to general in 1986, almost 100 senior colonels were bypassed. Many other generals were again bypassed by Aguirre when he was promoted to two-star rank, he added. "What I am trying to point out is that in the promotion of generals, there will always be those who will be bypassed," he said. Maceda also expressed confidence that Commission on Appointments, of which he is a member, would comfirm Abadia's nomination.

LDP Block To Quit if Ramos Lands Nomination

HK1104052291 Quezon City MALAYA in English 11 Apr 91 pp 1, 8

[By Didi Doloricona and Jodeal Cadacio]

[Text] The 38-member Group of Independents yesterday threatened to quit the ruling Laban ng Demokratikong Pilipino [LDP—Struggle of Philippine Democrats] and support the opposition presidential candidate if Speaker Ramos V. Mitra fails to land the LDP nomination for president.

Rep. Leonardo Guerrero (LDP, Cavite), spokesman of the group, said the members of the block will definitely withhold support from Defense Secretary Fidel V. Ramos, Mitra's main rival.

The Liberal Party [LP], meanwhile, urged President Aquino not to endorse anyone for the 1992 presidential elections to ensure a fair fight among administration candidates. Rep. Raul Daza (Samar), LP secretary general, said although Liberals are not discounting the possibility that Mrs. Aquino might endorse their standard bearer, "we believe it would be better if she does not endorse anybody so nobody could exploit it."

Guerrero said Ramos' nomination would mean "an exodus of many LDP members." "If Mitra will not be chosen as LDP's candidate for the presidency, most of our members might resign and support the candidate of the opposition," Guerrero said. Guerrero said they will likely support Mrs. Imelda Marcos if she runs. The other opposition aspirants are Vice President Salvador Laurel, Senate Minority Floor Leader Juan Ponce Enrile (NP) and businessman Eduardo Cojuangco.

In another development, a highly placed source in the LDP said five more congressmen face expulsion for allegedly supporting the Partido Pilipino, the party of Cojuangco. The source said the activities of Representatives Mariano Yulo (Negros Occ.) Tito Espinosa (Masbate), Alberto Veloso (Leyte), Victor dominguez (Mt. Province), and Eriberto Loreto (Leyte) are being monitored closely by the

LDP executive committee. The source earlier said 15 LDP House members have "questionable loyalty to the party."

The LDP last month expelled Representatives Juanito Camasura and Benjamin Bautista, both of Davao del Sur, on suspicion of helping organize the Partido Pilipino.

Dava also predicted that a number of LDP members would join LP or the opposition before the LDP's convention in December. He said the shift would be triggered by a showdown between Mitra and Ramos. "You can see that compared to other parties, only the LP seems to project a clear presidential candidate. In the opposition, there are three possible candidates, while in the LDP, there are two," he said. Daza also confirmed reports the LP plans to ally with Sen. Aquilino Pimentel's PDP-Laban [Pilipino Democratic Party-Nation's Strength] so the two parties can field a complete slate down to congressional district level.

'Major Revamp' To Continue in Military Hierarchy

HK1004065191 Manila MANILA BULLETIN in English 10 Apr 91 pp 1, 14

[By Aris R. Ilagan]

[Text] A major revamp will continue to sweep the military hierarchy within the week despite the reported internal bickerings among some military officers as a result of the designation of Maj Gen Lisandro Abadia as the next Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFO) chief of staff.

Outgoing Armed Forces chief of staff Gen Rodolfo Biazon has designated Navy Commodore Proceso Fernandez to assume the position of AFP deputy chief of staff, replacing Maj Gen Alexander Aguirre who resigned the post last Monday. Fernandez, who was vice commander of the Philippine Navy, belongs to Class 1959 of the Philippine Military Academy (PMA), along with AFP vice chief of staff Maj Gen Guillermo Flores.

Aguirre tendered his irrevocable resignation as AFP deputy chief of staff to President Aquino in protest over what he called is "unjust and unfair" designation of Abadia as chief of staff. Disappointed over the alleged interference of some influential personalities with "political partisan interest" in the military establishment, Aguirre said that he will only report back to work after he had consumed his more than 500 days of accumulated official leave and when a new administration is already installed. Sources also said that Flores was supposed to go on leave with Aguirre because of the appointment issue but was dissuaded by the latter.

Aguirre said he will name the "political interventionists" in his phase-by-phase fight for a just promotions system in the AFP. He, however, stressed that his fight will only exhaust all legal means within the bounds of the Constitution. Aguirre and at least two other senior generals—Flores and Rear Admiral Mariano Dumancas, PMA 1960—were bypassed with the appointment of Abadia, their junior, as AFP chief of staff.

Military sources said that Biazon will turn over the AFP command to Abadia on Friday, two days before Biazon celebrates his 56th birthday. Biazon is also scheduled to fly to Baguio City today for the turnover rites for the newly-designated PMA superintendent, Navy commodore Virgilio Marcelo. Marcelo, who was formerly camp commander of Camp Aguinaldo in Quezon City, will take over the PMA leadership from Brig Gen Arturo Enrile, new Philippine Army chief. Marcelo is a member of PMA Class '61. On Thursday, the turnover ceremonies for Army chief Brig Gen ARturo Enrile will also take place at the Army Headquarters in Fort Bonifacio, Makati.

Meanwhile, Defense Secretary Fidel Ramos urged some quarters of the AFP to refrain from staging mass actions so that "the highest national interest would always be upheld." Ramos admitted that the defense department had failed to stop the "dramatic outbursts" of Agurre. "We tried as much as we could to drop any dramatic intentions he (Aguirre) had in mind," Ramos said during the "Araw ng Kagitingan" [National Heroes' Day] celebrations at Fort Bonifacio. This developed as Makati Mayor Jejomar Binay also appealed to Aguirre "to reexamine your decision to go on leave of absence."

In a letter to Aguirre, Binay reiterated that President Aquino, being the commander-in-chief of the AFP, has the prerogative to appoint the AFP chief of staff and that she exercised such prerogative in the best interest of the country. "I hope that with the passage of time, the tested spirit of the soldier and the Filipino in you will prevail over your personal feelings," Binay wrote Aguirre. Binay recalled the time when his Makati policemen fought side-by-side with elements of the PC [Philippine Constabulary] Capital Regional Command (Capcom), which was then led by Aguirre, in staging counter attacks on rebel Scout Rangers who occupied the Makati Commercial district for seven days during the December, 1989 failed coup attempt.

NPA Attacks Oriental Mindoro Police Camp; 8 Die

HK1004113791 Manila Manila Broadcasting Company DZRH in Tagalog 0800 GMT 10 Apr 91

[By Restie de Quiros]

[Text] Eight people died in an encounter between Philippine National Police [PNP] and the New People's Army [NPA] when communist rebels besieged an Oriental Mindoro police camp yesterday.

In the encounter, the communist rebels abducted five policemen, including two officers. According to a report received today by Director General Cesar Nazareno, PNP chief, from Senior Superintendent Honesto Bumanlag, PNP operations center chief, the encounter took place around 1030 in Sitio Sigaw, Barangay Lisap, Bongabong, Oriental Mindoro.

It was reported that eight government men were killed during the two-hour clash; the fatalities were not identified. Injured government troopers are now undergoing treatment at the Mindoro provincial hospital. Of the five abducted, only Senior Inspector Enrico Salakom was identified. More than 200 NPA men were said to have attacked

the police camp. The PNP is investigating this case, which may be the rebels' largest attack in the province.

Attempt To Bomb Supreme Court Building Foiled

HK1104043491 Manila PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER in English 11 Apr 91 pp 1, 9

[By Stella Gonzales]

[Text] Bomb disposal experts of the Western Police District Command [WPDC] yesterday foiled an attempt to bomb the Supreme Court building on Padre Faura street in Manila.

Police said an explosive device consisting of 16 sticks of dynamite packed in a green expandable envelope was found between two cars parked in the front parking lot of the Supreme Court at 10:45 a.m. Police said Mario Fajardo, a Supreme Court security guard, was doing his rounds when he noticed smoke coming from the envelope and immediately notified the WPD.

A member of the bomb disposal team, Senior Police Officer 1 Jose Cruz, said the three-foot timing fuse of the device was already burned but failed to explode when the blasting caps misfired. "It was just ignited and it was still hot and could have exploded when we rendered it safe." Cruz said.

Inspector Delano Baun, WPDC explosives ordnance unit chief, said that had the device exploded, it would have blasted the cars around it and damaged the concrete wall surrounding the Supreme Court building. Passersby may also have been injured by debris from the blast, he said.

Chief Justice Marcelo Fernan said in a statement that the court viewed the incident "with concern," and expressed thanks that there were no injuries or damage. Fernan said he was unaware whether the bombing attempt was connected to the recent spate of bombings in Metro Manila, but urged the citizenry "to exercise more vigilance to put an end to these dastardly acts."

Baun said the explosive device was similar to that found at the Pilipinas Shell oil depot in Pandacan last November. "The dynamite was arranged the same way as that at the oil depot. Even the way the detonating cord was wrapped around the dynamite was the same," Baun said.

Baun said the explosive device may have been thrown over the wall of the Supreme Court and landed in between the two cars. He said they had not identified the owners of the cars but added that vehicles of Supreme Court justices are parked at the back of the building where security is tighter.

Police said they suspect that those responsible for the bombing attempt may also have been the ones who bombed three branches of the Bank of the Philippine Islands and a Meralco [Manila Electric Company] power substation last Tuesday. Most of the Supreme Court employes knew little about what had happened. "What we heard was that there had been bomb threats. We were told not to panic since the place is secure," one of the employes said.

U.S., New Zealand Criticize Import Levy

HK1104051891 Manila THE CHRONICLE in English 11 Apr 91 p 1

[By Corrie S. Narisma]

[Text] The United States and New Zealand have threatened to take action against the Philippines for alleged violation of its obligation under the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) with its imposition of the 9% import levy.

Acting Trade and Industry Secretary Peter Garrucho, in a letter to Finance Secretary Jesus Estanislao, said New Zealand and the United States expressed serious concern over the imposition of the 9% levy which will cover items bound under the GATT.

Visiting Canadian Minister for External Relations Monique Landry also asked President Aquino to lift the controversial 9% levy. Landry said such action will bost investments in the Philippines. Landry said President Aquino conceded that the levy "is not a good tax" and intends to reduce it after legislation provides for alternative sources of revenues.

Under the GATT, the Philippine government has committed to peg the tariffs on the importation of 79 items at their current levels and another 50 items at higher levels. However, the imposition of the additional 9% levy on imports resulted in increase in tariffs on the bound items beyond the levels committed by the government.

Garrucho said there would be no problems on the 50 items since the additional levy will not increase their present duty beyond their bound rates. The problem, he said, lies in the 79 items bound at their present duties since the imposition of the additional levy means the rates will go beyond the committed rates.

Products whose rates would exceed the bound rates with the additional levy include dried grapes, fresh apples, soybeans and sobyean meal, carbonless copying paper in rolls or sheets, claycoated boxboard in rolls or sheets, asbestos parking and gaskets, ferrules for pencil manufacture, air pumps, vacuum pumps and air or gas compressor parts, bottling machines, weighing machinery, poultry equipment, food and beverages processing machinery, telegraph apparatus and others.

The New Zealand government told the DTI [Department of Trade and Industry] of its concern through Ambassador Alison Stokes. Stokes, in a letter to Trade and Industry Undersecretary Lilia R. Bautista, specially noted the effect of the 9% levy on apples which is bound at a rate of 50%. The additional levy increased the tariff on apples to 59% as confirmed to the New Zealand embassy here by the fiscal policy planning director of the Department of Finance.

"Our authorities are very concerned at this development, which contravenes the Philippine international obligations, and is contrary to Philippine undertakings that these obligations would be respected in the implementation of the import levy," Stokes said in the letter. In his letter to Estanislao, Garrucho said Stokes insinuated that New

Zealand may take action under the GATT if the Philippine government fails to honor its GATT obligations and commiments.

In a related development, a Philippine mission to Geneva during the Philippine balance-of-payments consultations in GATT reported that the United States also complained of the additional 9% levy which affected bound items. The U.S. also noted that the imposition of the additional levy on bound items is violative of the GATT obligations.

New Zealand also expressed its concern over the matter during the BOP [balance of payments] meeting which zeroed in on the Philippine balance of payments problem and the 9% levy. This is a regular GATT procedure where member-countries with BOP problems inform their trading partners on trade barriers they are resorting to in a bid to improve its balance-of-payments position.

Garrucho has sought clarification from the finance department. He urged the Department of Finance to remedy the problem by exempting the 79 bound products for face possible actions which may be taken by individual GATT contracting party affected by the measures. Garrucho said possible actions that may be taken by the affected parties. include demand for equitable compensation for every concession/benefit nullified by the measure. Equivalent concessions granted to Philippine products may also be withdrawn as a form of retaliation by affected parties.

Meanwhile, Vicente Paterno yesterday said that Mrs Aquino was well within her power to raise duties on petroleum products in line with a Palace plan to boost revenues that would enable Government to reduce the 9% import levy.

However, Paterno, chairman of the committee on economic affairs, explained that the President could not touch specific taxes without legislation. Paterno said he interpreted Executive Secretary Oscar Orbos announcement on reducing the import levy to mean that the Palace mean to increase duties on petroleum products, "which would constitute the revenue measures to displace" in levy.

"The President has the power to raise duties by up to 100% without congressional action, but she can't change specific taxes," he explained. Only recently, Congress had lowered specific taxes on petroleum products in a vain attempt to lower domestic oil prices.

Thailand

Government Endorses China as ASEAN Partner

BK1104030191 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 11 Apr 91 p 2

[Text] Thailand has endorsed China's desire to establish a "dialogue partner" relationship with ASEAN.

And, in compliance with the "one-China policy," Thailand welcomes China's position that it will paticipate in the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) forum as a full member, with Hong Kong and Taiwan as observers.

Bangkok will be the venue of the APEC ministerial meeting next year, when the inclusion of the so-called three Chinas is expected to be worked out. These are the major issues emerging from the bilateral consultations between Thai and Chinese senior officials headed by permanent secretary Witthaya Wetchachiwa and visiting Chinese Deputy Foreign Minister Qi Huaiyuan. Foreign Ministry spokesman Sakthip Krairoek quoted the permanent secretary as telling the Chinese delegation that Thailand supports China being a dialogue partner of the six-member ASEAN.

The current lineup of full dialogue partners of ASEAN which meet annually are the US, Canada, Japan, Australia, New Zealand and the European Community, with South Korea as a "sectoral dialogue partner." Thailand is also "delighted" that China has lately expanded ties with ASEAN in a number of aspects, especially last year when it established diplomatic relations with Indonesia and Singapore. China recently sent officials to Brunei for talks on diplomatic relations. The sultanate is the only ASEAN country that has not yet had ties with China.

According to Mr Sakthip, Chinese officials expressed appreciation for former foreign minister Athit Urairat's work in conveying the message that China would like to build relations with Brunei during Dr Athit's visit there.

On Mekong River development, China confirmed that it will actively participate in the mekong Interim Committee, but only when the Cambodian problem is settled. However, China is willing to take part in the development projects study programme for the lower Mekong basin.

On economic relations, Thailand called on China to buy more farm products because last year's bilateral volume tilted in China's favour. The Deputy Foreign Minister, on the other hand, proposed that Thailand consider purchase of Chinese satellite and heavy machinery. And in a bid to ease Thai investment in China, the Thai team urged Beijing to improve its foreign exchange regulations.

Government To Begin Aid Program for Laos, Others

BK1104020791 Bangkok THE NATION in English 11 Apr 91 p A1

[Text] Thailand will, for the first time, set up a substantial assistance programme to offer technical help and grant aid to "less fortunate countries", including Laos, Vietnam, Nepal and Cambodia of the future, in a new foreign policy thrust under Foreign Minister Asa Sarasin.

Asa told THE NATION last night that the policy is being formulated because of the changing situation in the world and the region.

Informed sources said that the budget originally earmarked for the programme amounted to only Bt13 million and the Foreign Ministry is seeking consent from the Finance Ministry to boost it to Bt200 million, half of which will be extended to Laos.

Lao Deputy Foreign Minister Souban Srithirat is due to arrive here today from South Korea, and will discuss the possibility of an increase in Thai aid to his country with Asa today.

"Thailand is more fortunate economically and politically than many other countries. It is therefore our moral obligation to help the less fortunate ones in the form of technical assistance and grant aid, or whatever form of help that others may need from us," he [Asa] said.

Thailand has so far been a recipient of foreign aid but under the new policy, Thailand will try to position itself as a country ready to offer economic assistance to boost its image and position as an economically strong nation.

The first country to benefit from the programme is expected to be Laos which Army Commander in Chief Gen Suchinda Khraprayun recently visited and to where Supreme Commander Gen Sunthon Khongsomphong will go soon. Observers said the inclusion of Thailand's neighbours, including Vietnam and Burma, as beneficiaries of the programme was noteworthy. It reflects Thailand's readiness to assume the role of a regional hub in mainland Southeast Asia.

General Suchinda Welcomes Singapore Counterpart

BK1004152391 Bangkok Army Television Channel 5 in Thai 1230 GMT 10 Apr 91

[Text] Army Commander in Chief General Suchinda Khraprayun welcomed the visiting Singapore army commander, Brigadier General Ng Jui Ping, at the Army auditorium at 0940 today. The Singapore Army chief and his party are on an official visit to Thailand as guests of the Royal Thai Army. The group was accompanied by Major General Thirawat Patthamanon, director of Army intelligence, during today's courtesy call.

After reviewing the guards of honor, Gen. Suchinda and Brig. Gen. Ng Jui Ping held an official consultation. The Thai army chief also presented a royal decoration to the Singapore Army commander in recognition of his noble service. The ceremony was attended by Army Chief of Staff General Wirot Saengsanit, Deputy Army Chief of Staff Lieutenant General Pramuan Phalasin, and a number of senior military officers.

Gen. Suchinda granted an interview to reporters later on. He said that there is no problem concerning former Prime Minister General Chatchai Chunhawan's return to Thailand. The military will arrange for security protection for Gen. Chatchai.

USTR Says Thailand 'Priority' 301 Designee

BK1104035191 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 11 Apr 91 pp 15, 24

[By Phonphimon Kanchanalak in Washington]

[Text] The US Trade Representative [USTR], in compliance with the legislative requirement for an annual review, has concluded that Thailand be designated a priority foreign country under Section 182 of the Trade Act of 1974, as amended by the Omnibus Trade and Competitiveness Act of 1988, known as the Special 301 provision. The announcement of the results of the Special 301 annual review are expected to be made on April 26.

Procedurally, the USTR's recommendation has to go through the interagency Trade Policy Review Group (TPRG), which comprises officials at the level of undersecretary, and the Economic Policy Committee (EPC), which comprises Cabinet-level officials from various agencies, who will consider it and offer their opinions. The final decision will be made by the USTR.

Informed sources confirmed that USTR Ambassador Carla Hills early last week telephoned Commerce Minister Amaret Sila-on to inform him of the decision. US Ambassador to Thailand Daniel O'Donohue met Mrs Hills on Monday afternoon and discussed the issue of the USTR's identification of Thailand as a priority country. Mr O'Donohue will fly back to Bangkok tomorrow. He is scheduled to meet Mr Amaret on Monday.

Eleventh-hour lobbying is being carried out by the Foreign Ministry and the Thai Embassy in Washington in an attempt to change the USTR's decision. The Commerce Ministry is carefully studying all the ramifications of the designation in the event that lobbying efforts fail.

Two other nations which will be designated priority countries are India and China. Indonesia was identified as the fourth country on the list, but as of April 4, according to industry sources, the Jakarta Government was negotiating very seriously with the USTR on removing market access barriers for films and videos to escape the priority listing.

The statutory definition of priority countries under Special 301 are those countries whose policies are the most onerous or egregious and have the greatest adverse impact (actual or potential) on relevant US products. Within 30 days of identifying priority countries under Special 301, the USTR must initiate Section 301 investigations of those countries' intellectual properties.

If any investigations are initiated as a result of Special 301 they are on a fast track—unfair and retaliation determinations must be made within six months of initiating an investigation. The investigation may be extended up to nine months if complex or complicated issues are involved, or if substantial progress is being made. The USTR has unlimited discretion in deciding whether to retaliate for denial of protection of intellectual property rights.

The state mandates an annual review under Special 301, but the USTR may designate or remove a country's priority status at any time. The self-initiated, fast-track investigation process under Special 301 will be carried out separately from the two current active investigations under regular 301 provisions. The two ongoing investigations were prompted by the requests of the copyrighted industries and research-based pharmaceutical industry.

Both the International Intellectual Property Alliance (IIPA) and the Pharmaceutical Manufacturers Association

(PMA), which are the two petitioners of the industry-initiated investigations, supported the identification of Thailand as a priority country. While their recommendations to the USTR targeting priority countries were made separately and independently, three countries were included in both recommendations—China, India and Thailand.

The recent raids against Thai audio and video pirates failed to make any significant impression on the US Administration and industry. Industry sources said none of the major audio pirate manufacturers named in the IIPA's petition had been raided. "Only some small retailers and retail outlets of major pirate manufacturers were raided, not the manufacturers or warehouses," the sources said.

The petition names Super Peacock Co, Lepso Promotion Co, Onpa Trading Co, Rota Co and Ammer Macatic LP as the five major pirate manufacturers of audio tapes. The IIPA's petition estimated the loss in revenue for the US industry in 1990 exceeded $20 million.

The US motion picture industry identified nine major video pirates: AVS Video, New Beat Video, Robot Video, Iam Video, Mang Pong Video, Q Video, Silver Bell Video, MK Video and Rose Video. The Motion Picture Export Asssociation of America (MPEAA) estimated the total loss to its member companies during 1981-90 at $134 million. Industry sources said so far they had not seen anything in terms of enforcement of Thailand's copyright law.

The PMA, in its recommendation targeting priority countries to the USTR, argued that because the Uruguay Round was unable to agree on the trade-related intellectual property (TRIPS) negotiations, more vigorous action by the US was necessary. The PMA told the USTR the identification of priority countries this year would help preserve momentum in the TRIPS negotiations and resolve favourably the all-too-many disputes over bracketed language in the TRIPS text.

The PMA said its members depended heavily on overseas protection of its patent rights for exports and returns on overseas sales.

The Thai charge d'affares in Washington, Krit Kanchanakunchon, met senior administration officials to voice Thailand's objection to the USTR's identification. At the meeting, the Thai official pointed out several serious negative and counter-productive ramifications of the USTR's action. The review process was desceibed by some administration officials as a "very difficult" exercise for them.

Mrs Hills had to balance demands and pressure from industry as well as Congress to decide on taking action against violators of intellectual property rights.

U.S. Intensifies Pressure

BK1104024591 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 11 Apr 91 pp 15, 24

[Text] The US has intensified pressure to extract concessions on intellectual property rights-related laws, and designating Thailand for Special 301 actions will be tantamount to "declaring war" on Thailand, government sources said yesterday.

Responding to the BANGKOK POST report from Washington that the US Trade Representative had concluded that Thailand should be designated as a priority foreign country under the Special 301 provision, government officials, who asked not to be identified, expressed optimism that Thailand would be spared as a target of the Special 301 annual review which was expected to be announced on April 26. They said there was a process the annual review ought to follow, and the list was still being considered.

One of them saw the US move as an attempt to put more pressure on Thailand at a time when the National Peace-Keeping Council and the interim Government could move along "a fast track" to amend intellectual property rights-related legislation, a process long- delayed during parliamentary democracy. "At this time step of the process (for the annual review), anybody is liable and vulnerable. But I don't think Thailand is the target," the official said.

As part of intense lobbying to stave off the designation, which would portray Thailand as a "bad guy on the international trade scene", Thailand was seeking to maximise its leverage through antinarcotics cooperation, and the deadlocked bilateral aviation agreement negotiations, among other things. "Should the US designate Thailand as a 'priority foreign country' it would only go to show the US does not understand Thailand at all—that we are not a US colony, and that if left us alone we could produce something," the official said.

Another source said he expected American Ambassador to Thailand Daniel O'Donohue, who was returning from Washington tomorrow, would present Washington's new proposal to Commerce Minister Amaret Sila-on on April 15. "It (the proposal) might be aimed at convincing Thailand to make certain changes if the country does not wish to see itself included in the hit list," the source said. He warned that if the final decision to include Thailand in the priority foreign list was not changed, the ramifications could be far reaching, and might evoke strong anti-American sentiments.

The Thai public might be more sceptical about the US action as progress had been made by the Thai Government over the disputed Intellectual Property Rights (IPR), specifically the patent and copyright laws, he said. The draft amendment of the patent law to include pharmaceutical products was already completed and was about to be presented to Cabinet for final approval, he said.

It was likely the Thai Government would agree to include the controversial computer software into the copyright law as originally demanded by Washington. "Once the anti-American attitudes have gained momentum, it would make future actions by the Government to solve these problems become even more difficult," the source said.

Dismayed by Washington's decision, Economic and Finance Crime Suppression Centre deputy-superintendent Pol Lt-Col Ratthawit Saenthawisuk said the US did not understand the laws and legal procedures involved. Lt-Col Ratthawit said American officials at the last meeting in

California were reportedly satisfied with the suppression campaigns launched by police authorities on IPR violators.

Defending recent police raids against audio and video pirates, he said all the raids were made at the requests of representatives of the US motion picture industry or International Intellectual Property Alliance (IIPA). "If they (those representatives) could not produce any evidence against the alleged pirate manufacturers or warehouse, how could we take any action against them?" he said. "All our previous crackdowns were made after tips from those representatives. They reportedly were satisfied with our actions."

Military To Guarantee Chatchai's Safety on Visit

BK1104022091 Bangkok THE NATION in English 11 Apr 91 pp A1, A2

[By Charoenlak Phetpradap and Thawisak Sipan]

[Text] The military will guarantee the safety of former prime minister Chatchai Chunhawan, who is expected to arrive here this morning to receive a royal decoration from HM [His Majesty] the King, Army Commander-in-Chief Suchinda Khraprayun said yesterday.

But the military protection could mean that Chatchai's supporters who planned to greet the former prime minister at the Don Muang airport would be prevented from meeting him at the airport for security reasons.

Suchinda's assurance came as anonymous leaflets were being circulated in Nakhon Ratchasima, Chatchai's political stronghold, urging his supporters to show up at Don Muang to receive the ex-premier who "had significantly contributed to the prosperity of Nakhon Ratchasima and the nation."

Chatchai will be accompanied by his wife Thanphuying Bunruan, their daughter Wani Hongpraphat, his niece and nephew-in-law, Dr Pranpridi Mahitthanukon, and two housekeepers. He is expected to return to London on April 15 after attending a ceremony on Friday in which he would be awarded one of the highest classes of royal decorations, Rattanaphon Medal First Class. Chatchai is due to arrive in Bangkok at 7.30 am but government sources said the landing schedule of Chatchai's flight would be 5.30 am.

The leaflets, which were handed out and mailed to many Nakhon Ratchasima residents, urged Chatchai's supporters in the province to travel to Don Muang, saying that the move would not be considered a breach of the military council's order banning political gathering of more than five people.

Sources in the province told THE NATION that the group of Chatchai's supporters, who were responsible for the distribution of the leaflets, planned to invite the ex-premier and his wife to attend a rot nam dam hua, a blessing rite performed during Songkran, the traditional Thai New Year. A group of former Chat Thai, MPs [members of parliament], including Rewut Chindaphon from Phuket, had earlier said they planned to arrange for a New Year blessing for Chatchai at his Ratchakhru residence on Saturday.

Suchinda, who is deputy chairman of the National Peace-keeping Council, said yesterday the military would not place any travel restrictions on the former prime minister during his brief stay in the country. He said the military would provide full protection for Chatchai but added that it was not "my duty" to receive Chatchai at the airport "There won't be any special arrangements," he said.

But Deputy Defence Minister and assistant army chief Gen Wimon Wongwanit gave a strange comment on Chatchai's planned visit yesterday. "I think he will not come," said the general. He did not elaborate why he had such a thought.

Military sources told THE NATION that the former prime minister and his entourage would be whisked away from the plane to the Air Force headquarters instead of the arrival lounge or the VIP reception room at the Don Muang International Airport. The plan was described as only a "precaution" against possible untoward incidents at the airport, the sources said. Security officials will escort Chatchai and his team straight from the airport to the Ratchakhru residence, they said.

Armed Forces Mid-Year Reshuffle 'Big Surprise'

BK2803020591 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 28 Mar 91 p 3

[Text] Air Force Deputy Commander-in-Chief [C-in-C] ACM [Air Chief Marshal] Kan Phimanthip and Army Assistant Commander-in-Chief Gen Arun Pariwattham were transferred from the military's "corridor of power" in a mid-year reshuffle of the three armed forces announced yesterday.

The transfer of the two high-ranking officers, who reportedly did not play a prominent role in the February 23 military coup and who were not named as members of the powerful National Peace-keeping Council [NPKC], represents a "big surprise" in the mid-year reshuffle which normally involves middle-ranking officers.

ACM Kan has been named inspector-general of the armed forces and his position at the Air Force has been filled by Chief-of-Staff [C-of-S] ACM Anan Kalintha who also sits on the NPKC. Air Force chief ACM Kaset Rotchananin last night explained that ACM Kan is the most senior officer and is, therefore, suitable for the inspector-general's post. He insisted the transfer was normal. ACM Kan who appeared upset, however, said he would obey whatever decision was made by his superior.

Army Assistant C-in-C Gen Arun who is the only Class 4 member of the prestigious Chunlachomklao Royal Military Academy holding the "top five" positions in the Army moves out to assume an inactive post with a rank equivalent to a field marshal in the office of the Army C-in-C. Replacing him will be Gen Chatchom Kanlong from the Army headquarters, a classmate of Army C-in-C Gen Suchinda Khraprayun.

The elevation of Gen Chatchom has virtually sealed the Class Five's control of the "top five" army posts. The other four "tigers" are Gen Suchinda, Army Deputy C-in-C Gen Itsaraphong Nunpakdi, Army Assistant C-in-C Gen Wimon Wongwanit and Army C-of-S Gen Wirot Saengsanit.

Other Class 5 members who were promoted included Lt-Gen Chamlaeng Uchukomon, deputy chief-of-staff of the Central Operations Command of the Supreme Command, who becomes director of the Central Security Command; Lt-Gen Thawon Rattanawadi, deputy chief-of-staff of the Army, who becomes commander of the Security Centre; Maj-Gen Phaeo Phaeophiphaksakun, from a deputy chief of the Territorial Defence Department, becomes chief of the Survey Department; and Lt-Gen Choetchai Thirattanon, army assistant chief-of-staff, becomes deputy chief-of-staff.

Noticeably, Air Marshal Chaloei Warinthrakhom, commander of the Air Force Security Force, whose unit played a key role in the seizure of an Air Force C-130 transport plane carrying former prime minister Chatchai Chunhawan and his entourage for a visit to Chiang Mai on the day of the military coup d'etat, was promoted an air chief marshal to a post to assist the Air Force C-in-C.

Other surprises in the Air Force involved ACM Suthep Theppharak, the assistant commander-in-chief and deputy communications minister who was made the Air Force chief-of-staff, and Air Vice Marshal [AVM] Prawit Rotchanapraphan, the Air Force secretary, who held the post for only a year before yesterday's promotion as assistant chief-of-staff for intelligence. Gen Chatchai's former aide, AVM Damrong Binsari, who was held in captivity along with the former premier, was transferred back to the Air Force from the Office of the Defence Permanent Secretary.

In the Supreme Command, Information director Lt-Gen Narudon Detpradiyut was made an adviser to the National Defence Institute with the rank of a full general and Lt-Gen Charan Kunlawanit, chief of Army Intelligence, has been moved to the Army C-in-C's office. There was no shortage of surprises in the Navy as well.

Navy Deputy C-in-C Admiral Somphong Kamonngam was transferred to work with the Navy C-in-C. He was succeeded by his assistant, Admiral Phairat Chuthongchai. Defence Minister Adm Praphat Kritsanachan said last night that the reshuffle was considered in accordance with procedure. He said that several new positions were created for officers of the ranks of a field marshal and full general.

Other important changes included Vice Admiral Songsit Kittiphirachon, deputy commander of the Naval Fleet, who becomes the assistant C-in-C; Vice Admiral Samran Somrup, assistant C-of-S, was moved to the Navy HQ and Vice Admiral Somnuk Rakson, assistant C-of-S, also joins him in the Navy HQ.

The reshuffle also saw the promotion of several officers closely associated with NPKC chairman Gen Sunthon Khongsomphong. Among them were Maj-Gen Somphot Sunthonmani, deputy director of the Adjutant General, who was appointed to become director of the Quartermaster Department; Maj-Gen Ruangrot Mahasaranon, assistant chief-of-staff of the Central Directorate of the Supreme Command, becomes the chief-of-staff of the National Security Centre.

In the regional command, Fourth Army Region commander Lt-Gen Yutthana Yaemphan was transferred to become an army adviser. Succeeding him was his deputy, Maj-Gen Kitti Rattanachaya. Yesterday's reshuffle involved 427 officers from the three armed forces.

Vietnam

Hanoi on U.S. Senator's Bill Opposing Blockade

BK1004134591 Hanoi Domestic Service in Vietnamese 1100 GMT 10 Apr 91

[Text] The U.S. paper CHRISTIAN SCIENCE MONITOR on 9 April carried a news report from its correspondent Burton in New York saying that Senator Murkowski, a member of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee who has championed the cause of free trade, is drafting a bill to ask the U.S. Government to end its economic blockade against Vietnam, which has been in place since 1975.

The article said Senator Murkowski's move shows that Congress and even the White House may be under heavy pressure from U.S. business circles. Many multinational corporations in the United States believe that they have lost a potential Vietnamese market to their foreign competitors.

U.S. giants such as the American Telephone and Telegraph Company, the General Electric Company, the International Business Machines Corporation, Texaco Incorporated, and the like, are among those that have strongly lobbied Congress for an open-minded policy toward Vietnam.

Political Bureau Resolution on Youth Work

BK0304133191 Hanoi NHAN DAN in Vietnamese 13 Mar 91 pp 1, 4

["Party Central Committee Political Bureau Resolution on Renovation and Intensification of Party Leadership Over Youth Work"—NHAN DAN headline]

[Text] Our youths are the assault force in national construction and defense. The Ho Chi Minh Communist Youth Union is the party's reliable reserve unit. Throughout all the revolutionary stages, the party and Uncle Ho have always paid attention to the youth work and have wholeheartedly educated, fostered, and cared for the young generations. Performing well the youth work is a political duty of strategic significance to the future of the nation and the country's destiny.

The country is being renovated comprehensively. The people, faced with the rigorous requirements of developing and surging forward, are struggling hard to overcome difficulties and build a new regime and a new life. The world situation that has undergone profound and complex changes is bearing a strong impact on our country. Hostile

forces are carrying out their plot of peaceful evolution and propagating decadent and noxious ideologies and culture, and an unethical lifestyle with a view toward attracting and perverting our youth. They are operating intensively to eliminate our party leadership and overthrow the socialist regime.

This situation requires our party to renovate and intensify leadership over the youth work.

I. Youth situation and work

Since the party and Uncle Ho began leading youths, the various generations of Vietnamese youths have developed to a high extent their patriotism and revolutionary heroism, and have taken the lead in national liberation and reunification and in socialist construction.

The educational level of our youths is now higher than that of previous generations. They can acquire new things rapidly, live dynamically and practically, love justice and democracy, and enthusiastically join the renovation process. Many bright examples of the young generations have appeared in building and defending the socialist Vietnam and in fulfilling international obligations. Many young geniuses have emerged in the domains of production, business, study, work, technology, culture, and arts.

However, socioeconomic difficulties in the country have given rise to many acute problems among youths. Unemployment, low income, illiteracy, poor health, and social evils have developed. A segment of youths has oscillated ideologically and their knowledge about the values of life has deviated. They have become lazy and indifferent to their social responsibilities and have adopted a pragmatic and superstitious lifestyle. Quite a number of youths have degenerated morally, have become rude and cruel, and have indulged in debauchery and even violated the law.

Young workers, who have promptly accepted the policy of renovating the economic management mechanism, have become active and creative in labor. In a number of new economic and technical sectors, a class of young and dynamic workers has emerged. Yet, faced with the requirement of rearranging production, many young workers who have been laid off chains of production are worried by difficulties in life and disappointed by abuses of authority and corruption among some management cadres.

Youths in rural areas who have supported the new contractual system have eagerly applied technical innovations to increase productivity and production volume. Many of them know how to intensively produce grain, engage in the garden and forest economies, and exploit maritime products with high results. However, in mountainous regions and those localities affected by natural disasters, the youths' living standard has lowered and their cultural activities are poor. Some of them have indulged in drinking, gambling, and superstitious practices. The fact that quite a number of cadres in rural areas have become corrupt and have oppressed the people has made youths lose their confidence in leadership.

Young students and intellectuals who are sensitive to the domestic and international situations have longed for renovation and have wanted to surge forward to new peaks of intelligence, and are overcoming difficulties in their study and work. However, they are very worried about backwardness in the country and dissatisfied with negativism in socioeconomic management. Some of them who are easily influenced by bourgeois liberal ideas and unhealthy foreign lifestyles have looked down upon the beautiful cultural life patterns of the nation.

Youths in the armed forces have developed their fine revolutionary traditions and have endured dangers and hardships in training and building the forces. They are ready to fight and have fought heroically to defend the country, fulfill their international duties, and maintain security, order, and public safety. Yet, they do not want to become officers, and indiscipline has developed among a number of cadres and combatants.

Young workers and craftsmen of all strata are striving to produce. Yet, they are very worried about an unstable life and about jobs because of shortages of raw materials and supplies and soaring prices. Many of them have left production for trade. Although the numerical development of young tradesmen has played a definite role in expanding circulation and easing unemployment tension, quite a number of these people have dodged and cheated on their taxes, have engaged in smuggling and swindling activities, and have become conceited with their riches.

Ethnic minority youths are a component of educated people among the ethnic people of all nationalities. Many of them have positively applied their scientific and technological knowledge to production and life and to the building of their own villages. However, just like other nationalities they face many difficulties, privations, diseases, illiteracy, and backward mores.

Owing to the effect of new policies, youths of all religions have recovered their peace of mind to carry out their religious activities while vigorously accelerating productive labor, building their life, and fulfilling their military service. Yet, some of them still face complexities when conducting social activities. The cultural life of teenagers and youths of religions remains poor.

There are many causes for the aforementioned weaknesses. The objective causes are the consequences of prolonged wars, effects of socioeconomic crises and socio-political troubles in some socialist countries, and hostile forces' activities to intensively sabotage the revolution and attract youths.

However, subjective causes are the main ones. Many party committee echelons have not fully realized the importance of youth work and have neglected this work. They have not paid much attention to building the Ho Chi Minh Communist Youth Union and have belittled the basic and advanced training of youths. The party has taken time in determining new viewpoints and knowledge concerning the role, potential, needs, and aspirations of young generations in order to set guidelines for renovating its leadership over the youth and teenager work. Old viewpoints, systems, and experiences are still used to organize the scope and operational method of youth work. Feudal

thought, paternalistic behavior, and bigoted attitudes still prevail heavily, thus restraining the activity and creativity of youths. Many cadres and party members have failed to set examples for youths. Degeneration and deviation among some cadres and lack of responsibility on the part of families, schools, agencies, and units have adversely affected youths.

The state has not promulgated timely laws, systems, and policies and has not invested enough to meet the needs for development of young generations. It has taken time to establish regulations for coordinating with the Ho Chi Minh Communist Youth Union and other youth organizations, and it lacks necessary organizational structures to coordinate forces in performing youth work.

The operational scope, form, and method of the Ho Chi Minh Communist Youth Union are being renovated slowly. Youth union members have increased numerically but decreased qualitatively. There still are many weak union bases. Union cadres are weak and badly needed in many areas. Meanwhile, many of them have no peace of mind to perform their work. Officialism and red tape still prevail heavily in youth organizations and cadres. Forms to rally youths in the interest of all strata of youths are still tedious. A great number of youths have not been absorbed into the organizations of the Vietnam Youth Association.

II. Fundamental viewpoints on youth work

In compliance with the Sixth Party Central Committee's Eighth Plenum Resolution on renovating the party's mass motivation work and strengthening the relationship between the party and the people, the party's youth work is carried out in accordance with the following viewpoints:

First, our party, state, and people must wholeheartedly foster and develop the potential and active role of youths in all areas of the renovation process, considering it a priority task in the personnel strategy. A favorable social setting must be established for youths to develop their personality and make the most of contributions.

Second, youths of all strata must be united and rally for the people's prosperity and the country's power, in the practical interests of all strata of youths who follow the path of socialism, democracy, and social justice, and for the sake of a civilized and happy life of youths. Youth and teenager organizations must vary depending on the occupations, preferences, and other needs of youths.

The Ho Chi Minh Communist Youth Union must be stable and strong to serve as a core for the youth movement and a succeeding force to carry on the revolutionary cause of the nation and party.

Third, coordination must be closely secured among all organizations of the socio-political system and between families and schools and the society in performing youth work. The youth movement for revolutionary acts must be organized along with the formulation and implementation of policies by the state to ensure the benefits and duties of youths.

Party committee echelons, the administration, and the entire society are responsible for caring for, educating, and fostering youths and teenagers.

III. Major Tasks

1. Settlement of unemployment.

The settlement of unemployment for youths is a pressing socio-political issue and the first and foremost aspiration of youths. The general direction in settling unemployment is to develop the multisectorial economy of commodities along with popularizing the vocational training of youths. The state will encourage and create conditions for mass organizations and families to attentively assist youths in looking for jobs by themselves in various economic sectors so as to overcome the mental state of waiting for such assistance from the state and collectives.

In the years ahead, we should:

—Encourage all those among the people and youths who are capable of pooling their material assets and manpower to develop production and provide services as prescribed by law.
—Create favorable conditions in terms of organization and policies for the development of family economy; encourage families in rural areas to intensively cultivate extra crops, raise livestock, and develop the gardening economy in line with the VAC formula along with processing products and doing traditional handicrafts; and urge households in cities to develop artisan industry and handicrafts and service and business operations.
—Widely develop the network of information on production, jobs, and occupations for youths to select their jobs or adjust their production and business operations in keeping with changes in the market and movements resulting from occupational requirements and technological progress.
—Organize the force of young workers under different forms and on various scales to participate in the construction of infrastructural socioeconomic projects, new economic zones and areas of industrial crops, and in afforestation to cover bare lands and hills with greenery, and organize assault youth forces to reclaim virgin land for production in midland and mountainous regions and to establish new populous villages and hamlets.
—Develop the export of labor under many forms and establish units of young workers and service installations to help youths work at home and engage in labor cooperation with foreign countries.

The party and state will formulate programs for settling unemployment for youths; promulgate policies on labor and manpower and on household registration and residency; issue labor records and occupational certificates to youths so that they can look for jobs nationwide easily; promulgate policies for youths to work abroad and get more income for their own benefit and to fulfill their obligations to national construction; and establish preferential policies toward those youths who do hard and dangerous work in outlying and hardship areas.

At every administrative level there should be an organization to secure coordination among sectors to help the party committees and the people's committees establish programs for settling unemployment for youths and guide the implementation of these programs.

2. Basic and advanced training

A. Citizens must be educated to develop revolutionary traditions and youths must be further trained in socialist ideals, ethics, and healthy lifestyles.

—Youths must be broadly educated to continue the nation's revolutionary traditions and accept the humanistic essence of the world; be good citizens and workers; fulfill their duties and enjoy benefits according to the law; love their compatriots, comrades, and colleagues; cultivate pure and healthy friendship and love; respect and love their grandparents, parents, and old people; respect women; love children and nature; protect the environment; and struggle against all violent behavior, selfish lifestyles, unrestrained and indisciplined attitudes in social activities, and irresponsibility toward the society and families.

The party and the Ho Chi Minh Communist Youth Union must attentively foster youths and teenagers' sense of vigilance against the subtle and insidious plots and maneuvers of hostile forces trying to pervert the thoughts and life of youths in order to drive some youths and teenagers into opposing the socialist regime and the Communist Party of Vietnam.

Youth union members, young intellectuals, and students should be attentively and profoundly fostered on the ideals of national independence and socialism and Uncle Ho's ideology and ethics so they can determine their responsibility for taking the lead in building and defending the socialist Vietnam homeland, and struggle for the objectives of making the people prosperous and the country powerful along the socialist line and for youths' happiness.

The forms and measures of political and ideological education should be improved to suit the characteristics of youths under the new socioeconomic conditions. We must proceed from our concern with the legitimate needs and interests of youths so as to attract more youths every day into useful activities, and on this basis to raise the level of awareness and comprehensive knowledge for the young generations.

B. We must conduct vocational training and generalize and raise the levels of cultural and technical knowledge and physical force for the young generations.

—Conducting vocational training for youths is a pressing matter that holds long-term significance in supporting the development of the country.

—The contents of vocational training must be expeditiously introduced into general middle schools in order to implement well the guidelines for teaching knowledge, occupational skills, and morality to youths so they can become good citizens and workers.

—The state, collectives, and private individuals should develop many forms of vocational training on many different levels.

—There must be policies to grant reduced tuition fee: free school to poor youths attending state and collectivized vocational training centers. Families should be encouraged to help their children select and attend vocational training, especially in traditional skills and handicrafts.

—Conditions should be created to attract foreign investment in the vocational training of youths. We must actively prepare a class of youths with rather high levels of education and skills for rapidly receiving new technological regulations and for labor cooperation with foreign countries.

—Generalizing and raising the level of cultural and technical knowledge and physical force for youths and teenagers is a key task in raising the people's intellectual standards.

—We must positively fight illiteracy among youths and teenagers; pay attention to outlying rural areas and the centers of ethnic minority and religious people; generalize cultural education for youths, depending on the requirements of expanding production, business, and service; and create facilities for youths to improve their skills by themselves and receive new technical and technological knowledge.

—Policies must be established to encourage youths to learn by themselves and take examinations above the level of their grades, and to authorize candidates to sit in examinations in general schools and colleges. A network of privately-run schools will be developed and satisfactory policies toward these schools will be established. Families will be authorized to send their children to overseas schools on their own as they so desire.

—A broad and in-depth physical training movement will be developed to qualitatively enhance sports and physical exercise among youths and teenagers, especially in schools. Public health services for the young generations must be intensified. Youths and teenagers must be taught advanced knowledge about health protection to prevent social diseases and to positively control malnutrition among children. Programs for the protection of mothers, pregnant mothers, and infants must be implemented well. Material facilities such as sports, physical training, and cultural and arts installations must be built in population centers.

C. Training of young geniuses.

—The state must pay attention to investment in training contingents of cadres and technical workers.

—We should urgently reform colleges and higher education, and remove all irrational restraints to help intelligent and talented youths study, sit in examinations, and defend their research projects and inventions.

—We should respect the personalities of young intellectuals, give them advanced knowledge of politics and revolutionary ethics, and overcome all manifestations of prejudice, narrowmindedness, and jealousy.

—There must be a system to employ and compensate intellectuals in general and young ones in particular. Scholarships must play the role of encouraging students to study hard. There must be a special policy to materially and morally support real geniuses. Young intellectuals should be provided with conditions to interchange their knowledge at home and go abroad to do scientific surveys, research, and experiments. Young intellectuals should be organized and sent abroad to work under the programs of cooperation between states and direct relations between production, business, and scientific research installations. A system should be established to satisfactorily commend and reward those who have invented new technological regulations.

D. Ethnic minority youths and handicapped youths, teenagers, and children must be well cared for.

—We must pay attention to raising the cultural standard of ethnic minority youths and teenagers, guide them in the development of their trades and jobs, give them medical care, consolidate the schools of youths and teenagers on highlands, and conduct other suitable forms of training in the tribal regions.

—Policies toward war invalids must be properly implemented to help them regain their health, get a job, and stabilize their livelihood.

—Social welfare must be intensified and all humanitarian and charity activities developed to help infirmed and fatally ill youths and teenagers and unattended orphans.

3. Organize a movement for revolutionary acts among youths.

The youth movement should be oriented toward the following activities:

—Participation in economic development: Accelerate the movement for youths to advance into the fields of science, technology, and goods production and business; develop the assault youth units for economic building; and carry out economic projects and programs as planned, and particularly pay attention to tree-planting to cover bare hills with greenery and to processing agricultural, forestry, and maritime products.

—Participation in consolidating national defense, defending security and the homeland, and maintaining public order and safety: Organize well the movement to remain "worthy of Uncle Ho's soldier title" among youths in the Army; implement Uncle Ho's six teachings to youths of the people's public security force; unite all youth forces to assure social order and safety; positively join in the implementation of rear Army policies; and struggle against crimes, smuggling, and corruption.

—Motivation of youths to build a new cultural life: Actively study to raise the level of comprehensive knowledge, join in healthy recreational entertainments, carry out population growth planning, protect the environment, and oppose decadent culture.

4. The Ho Chi Minh Communist Youth Union should be built firm and strong to expand the rallying and unity of youths.

The entire party should attentively build the Ho Chi Minh Communist Youth Union firm and strong, emphasizing qualitative improvement to make the union its truly reliable reserve unit, a socialist school for youths, a political nucleus of various movements and organizations of youths and teenagers, and a representative to protect youths' interests.

Statutes must be formulated to establish a good relationship between the party and the union and to secure direct party leadership while manifesting the independence and self-administration of the union organization.

The theoretical and practical achievements of the union should be summarized generally to enable the union to develop well its role and function of being a political nucleus in the youth movement and in charge of the Ho Chi Minh vanguard teenagers unit. All union cadres and members who are assigned specific tasks of rallying youths and teenagers must be good friends and key cadres of a youth and teenager collective.

The union organization must be rearranged along the lines of overcoming bureaucratism and officialism in the union machinery; streamlining the central, provincial, and city levels; orienting activities toward the grass-roots level; and emphatically consolidating union chapters.

The party should provide guidance for performing the following tasks well:

A. Expand the rallying and unity of all strata of youths; develop all forms of rallying youths through various flexible organizations and activities depending on the occupations, preferences, and living needs at each level, especially at the grass-roots level; build the Vietnam Youth Association into a large organization in which the Ho Chi Minh Communist Youth Union serves as a core to rally all model youth organizations and individuals; develop and improve the operations of Vietnam students associations of colleges and higher education installations to make the associations truly representative of students' interests; participate in the management of socialist schools; and expand the establishment of students' associations in general middle schools and professional and vocational middle schools in order to organize self-management operations in the study, cultural, and social activities of students.

B. The organization and activities of the Ho Chi Minh Vanguard Teenager Unit must be renovated positively. We must consolidate this unit in schools and expand the establishment of such a unit in all populated areas; qualitatively enhance the operations of the unit; intensify its educational property and attractiveness to teenagers; respect the democratic and self-administered principle of all unit members; create conditions and facilities for the unit to operate; and reorganize the production of toys for children and encourage the development of healthy toys and games.

5. The youth work of the party, state, and social organizations must be intensified.

A. Party leadership is a decisive factor in all successes of the youth movement.

—Party committee echelons and all party members should thoroughly understand the party's fundamental viewpoints on youth work in the new situation and actually concern themselves with the renovation of leadership over the youth and teenager work.

—The party leadership procedures must be renovated positively.

—We must organize scientific research, grasp necessary information and data in appraising youths and deciding policies and measures concerning youth and teenager work, and overcome the idea and behavior of subjectivism and paternalism.

—Periodic working sessions must be held between party committee echelons and youth union cadres to hear reports and conduct democratic debates before deciding various operational plans, and to secure necessary material facilities to implement these plans.

—The party and youth union must be purified. Cadres and party members must uphold revolutionary qualities, set examples for youths, and organize critism for youth union members to share their views with party members and organizations. Every party and youth union member is responsible for motivating youths.

B. The state must promulgate appropriate institutions, mechanisms, and policies, namely:

—The party and state must formulate policies to train, encourage, and rationally employ the cadres of youth unions, associations, and units; democratically select cadres for youth work; and expand the use of parttime union cadres receiving satisfactory moral and material compensations.

—The state must promulgate policies on material investments and earmark portions of the annual budget for allocation to the activities of youth union and the education of youths and teenagers outside the school network. Besides the state-allocated funds and contributions from their members, youth unions and associations are authorized to organize production and business as prescribed by law. Taxes paid by the economic units of the unions and associations will be reinvested by the state in the operation of unions and associations.

—Studies must be carried out to enact laws that ensure the healthy development of young generations: Labor code, youth code, education reform law, children's law...

—Along with perfecting the Committee for the Protection and Care of Children, we should form a suitable organizational structure to establish and coordinate agencies at all levels of the administration to implement social policies toward youths.

—Regulations must be established to coordinate the activities between the administration and youth unions at all levels. A rational mechanism of elections will be instituted to create conditions for youths to have representatives in state and people-elected agencies, to discuss systems and policies related to youths, and to join in controlling the implementation of these decisions, systems, and policies.

All sectors, especially the sectors of education, culture, information, and labor, and all agencies of communication, publication, and the press must orient their operations toward educating, training, and fostering young generations.

—Mass and social organizations must institute specific programs for intensifying their own youth work, maintaining close coordination among the youth, and positively assisting the Ho Chi Minh Communist Youth Union and all youth organizations.

Australia

Ambassador Accused of Political Corruption

BK1004100291 Hong Kong AFP in English 0916 GMT 10 Apr 91

[Text] Sydney, April 10 (AFP)—The Australian Government faced uproar in parliament Wednesday after rejecting demands that it recall its ambassador to Ireland and the Vatican because of corruption allegations.

Ambassador Brian Burke has been accused of soliciting multi- million dollar donations from now discredited entrepreneurs while he was premier of the state of Western Australia (WA).

He is claimed in evidence to a royal commission in Perth to have made it clear to the entrepreneurs that the health of their businesses was dependent on their donations to the Labor Party.

Former Merchant Banker Laurie Connell said in the three years to 1988 he gave the party one million dollars (780,000 U.S.) in response to Mr. Burke's requests.

Of the million dollars, 250,000 dollars (196,000 U.S.) is claimed to have gone to Prime Minister Bob Hawke's re-election campaign from a luncheon organised by Mr. Burke shortly before polling day in 1987.

Mr. Connell, who had interests in the gold mining industry at the time, claimed he had made the 250,000 dollar donation after being assured it would mean a gold tax would not be introduced.

Mr. Connell, former head of a merchant bank which collapsed in 1988, is facing charges of conspiring to defraud the public in bank dealings.

He said he believed other prominent businessmen, including Alan Bond and the late Robert Holmes a Court had also been involved in deals with the government.

His evidence, seen as immensely damaging to the Hawke government, was the first to link it with the activities of what has become known as "WA Inc."—the relationship between the WA government and big business.

Mr. Burke, elected premier in 1983, was appointed ambassador to Ireland and the Vatican by the Hawke government three years ago.

Senior government sources are reported to have indicated they want Mr. Burke to step aside in the face of what is shaping as another political crisis for the Hawke government.

The party's national secretary Bob Hogg said in a radio interview Tuesday he was confident Mr. Burke would be conscious of his public position and consider standing aside as ambassador if he believed the position was being damaged.

In Canberra, the opposition mounted a major attack Wednesday demanding Mr. Burke's recall pending the outcome of the royal commission, which is investigating 12 deals involving four previous premiers and numerous business figures.

Opposition leader John Hewson demanded the House of Representatives "call on the government to recall the ambassador to Ireland and the Holy See pending the satisfactory resolution of allegations and other matters raised ... Relating to the conduct of the ambassador as the former premier".

Mr. Hawke said the allegations against Mr. Burke were serious, but it would be dangerous to force him to stand down while they were still unsubstantiated.

Mr. Hawke, subjected to close questioning about the claim he had donated 250,000 dollars to the 1987 election campaign, said he had spoken at the lunch about why labor should be supported.

But he did not recall any discussion about specific donations and had no firsthand knowledge of what donations were made during or after the lunch.

The Labor Party had "fully met the requirements of the electoral act governing disclosure of donations," he said. "No one buys favours from this government."

The prime minister rejected the claim that Mr. Connell had gained a pledge before his donation that the government would not introduce a gold tax.

Mr. Hawke said said the government's position had not been determined by Mr. Connell or Mr. Burke.

Fiji

Opposition Party Petitions for 1991 Elections

BK1104063991 Hong Kong AFP in English 0507 GMT 11 Apr 91

[Text] Suva, April 11 (AFP)—Fijian President Ratu Sir Penaia Ganilau has been handed a petition calling on his government to live up to its promises and hold general elections this year, an opposition party official said Thursday.

The largely indigenous-backed Conservative Party of Fiji (CPF) petitioned the president on Wednesday because of its fears that the interim government was planning to extend its term for five more years.

CPF President Isireli Vuibau said in the petition that his party demands that elections be held this year, as stipulated under the new July, 1990 Constitution which required fresh polls to be held within 18 months.

He said the CPF wanted the president to publicly guarantee that the elections would be held this year.

The CPF is opposed to the caretaker government, installed by the army after two coups in 1987, continuing in office beyond its self- imposed two-year term.

The government of Prime Minister Ratu Sir Kamisese Mara originally undertook a two-year term in 1987, but in 1989 it announced it would continue for a second interim two-year period.

The CPF claimed in the petition that several government cabinet ministers were organising support of powerful traditional Fijian chiefs on the main island's west coast to ask the president to hold on to power for another five years.

"This coincides with rumours spread by supporters of Ratu Mara (prime minister) that there will be no elections," said CPF's petition letter.

Tupeni Baba, vice-president of the Fiji Labour Party and a leadership contender for the Labour-led coalition party, said here that he suspects the regime will shortly summon a special meeting of the Great Council of Fijian Chiefs (GCC) to receive official requests from the chiefs.

Government house said in a statement last week that general elections would be held "soon".

It declined to give any time frame but added that the interim government would remain in office until elections were held.

New Zealand

2 Aircraft To Carry Aid for Kurdish Refugees

BK1004144891 Hong Kong AFP in English 1259 GMT 10 Apr 91

[Text] Wellington, April 10 (AFP)—New Zealand said Wednesday it would send two aircraft to the Middle East with tents, blankets, milk powder and medical supplies for Kurdish refugees fleeing Iraq.

Prime Minister Jim Bolger announced the aid in a statement to parliament. He said supplies were being assembled and the departure date of the aircraft would be announced soon.

The airlift is in addition to a New Zealand dollars 725,000 (427,750 U.S.) cash aid announced previously.

The money is to be channelled through the United Nations and international aid organisations.

Air Force spokeswoman Diana Hales said the aircraft would be a C-130 Hercules and a Boeing 737.

Papua New Guinea

U.S., USSR Warned Against Superpower Rivalry

BK1004074091 Melbourne Overseas Service in English 0500 GMT 10 Apr 91

[Text] Papua New Guinea has warned the United States and the Soviet Union against using the South Pacific for superpower rivalry. The fisheries and marine resources minister, Mr. Akoka Doi, said Pacific island nations welcomed fishing agreements with both the United States and the Soviet Union. However, he warned the superpowers they should not treat the Pacific as a playground for their power politics.

Mr. Doi's comments came in a speech in an international conference in Rome. He said conflict had already developed in the Pacific with a tuna war, widespread poaching, and illegal fishing. The situation was now being further complicated by superpower rivalry.

Mr. Doi warned that South Pacific countries had no intention of being manipulated by the Soviet Union and the United States.

Western Samoa

AFP: Government 'Struggling To Retain Power'

BK1004103291 Hong Kong AFP in English 1004 GMT 10 Apr 91

[Text] Apia, April 9 (AFP)—Despite an apparent election win, the Western Samoan Government of Prime Minister Tofilau Eti Alesana is struggling to retain power, according to several political sources here.

Following the April 5 general election, Tofilau said he interpreted the results to mean his party had won 26 seats and would enjoy the support of two independents in the 47 seat legislative assembly.

But one known independent, Le Tagaloa Pita, said Tuesday that at least five of the 28 MPs claimed by the prime minister were in fact independents.

The former trade minister said the final disposition of support would leave Tofilau's Human Rights Protection Party (HRPP) with only 23 seats, while the opposition Samoa National Development Party (SNDP), with 18 elected members, would also be able to count on 23 with the support of the independents claimed by Tofilau.

In recent years the HRPP has been held together largely by the widespread dislike of opposition leader Tupua Tamasese Efi, but his personal defeat in last Friday's polls could lead to a realignment.

There is now a strong prospect that SNDP deputy leader Va'ai Kolone will take over the leadership, Le Tagaloa said, and "if he comes back many in the HRPP will go with him."

"They remember when Va'ai was last prime minister (from 1985 to 1988), when the place really bubbled," said Le Tagaloa.

An HRPP official interviewed Tuesday would say only that "a lot is going on, and the best thing is to believe nothing you hear."

Meanwhile, HRPP MPs-elect are camping out with the prime minister at party headquarters and said they would remain there until parliament meets, no later than May 20.

They spend their time playing cards, sleeping or meeting with wavering supporters.

Sources close to both parties said the allocation of cabinet portfolios is apparently the cause of the uncertainty.

One cabinet minister lost his seat in the election and at least four HRPP members, including the candidate who beat the opposition leader, believe they have a claim to a cabinet post, sources said, adding that if they are disappointed they could take their support to Va'ai.

This happened in 1985 when Tofilau returned from an election claiming the support of 35 MPs, but lost support after allocating portfolios and saw Va'ai take over by the end of the year.

In three of the last four West Samoan elections, a government has won control of the house by just one vote, and the uncertainty is likely to continue here for most of the month.

Official recounts, which were to begin Wednesday, could take as long as two weeks, and after the results are published unsuccessful candidates could file election petitions.

Large numbers of petitions have been filed after recent elections, and in 1982 they led to the fall of the government.